TheEMS™

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Emsworth Residents Forum
Community Newspaper

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Emsworth to become part of a Greater Portsmouth Council?

BBC Local Democracy Reporting Service and various council press releases

The 14 councils that comprise Hampshire have been unable to agree upon a single approach to Local Government Reform (LGR). Hampshire CC and East Hants DC are putting forward their own proposals (see below). The remaining 12 councils have unveiled their case for the major shake-up of local authorities in the region. The proposal to government would see the 14 mainland authorities in Hampshire merged to form four larger entities, with the Isle of Wight retaining its stand-alone council.

While the government will have the final say on the outcome of local government reorganisation (LGR), existing councils have been asked to submit their preference for how the new authorities should be shaped. The proposal, titled 'Close enough to be local, big enough to stay strong', comes from joint work by Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Fareham, Hart, Havant, Isle of Wight, New Forest, Portsmouth, Rushmoor, Southampton, Test Valley and Winchester. Gosport opted out of the discussions.

The 12 councils are putting forward three different options:

Option 1
- North Hampshire: Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor.
- Mid Hampshire: East Hampshire, New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester.
- South West Hampshire: Eastleigh and Southampton.
- South East Hampshire: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth.

Option 2
- North Hampshire: Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor.
- Mid Hampshire: East Hampshire, Test Valley, Winchester.
- South West Hampshire: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton.
- South East Hampshire: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth.

Option 3 (Havant BC backs this option)
- North Hampshire: Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor.
- Mid Hampshire: Most of East Hampshire, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester.
- South West Hampshire: Eastleigh, Southampton, Totton and Eling, Marchwood, Hythe and Dibden, and Fawley sections of New Forest, and Valley Park, Nursling and Rownhams, and Chilworth sections of Test Valley.
- South East Hampshire: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth plus the Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle sections of East Hampshire, and Newlands section of Winchester.

Their 208-page proposal document states at least £63.9 million of annual net recurring savings would be delivered, with the options reaching a breakeven point even between 2.2 and 3.1 years. However, the current forecasted gross budget gap totalling £178 million for all existing councils by 2028/29 was not included in the breakeven analysis. The cost of reorganisation is likely to be covered through a mixture of reserves. Councillor numbers could see the current number of 650 drop to around 390 following the mergers. To read the full report go to:
https://www2.basingstoke.gov.uk/downloads/LGR%20Business%20case%20WEB%20030925.pdf

Hampshire CC and East Hants DC have put forward a single option

- North and Mid Hampshire (Basingstoke and Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester)
- South-West Hampshire and Solent (Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton, Test Valley)
- South-East Hampshire and Solent (Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth)

To find out more go to: www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/governmentin-hampshire/future-hampshire-solent/local-government-reorganisation/proposal

All Hampshire authorities are in agreement that Havant should become part of a south east Hants unitary centred on Portsmouth. They also agree that the Isle of Wight should remain as a stand-alone unitary.

The option preferred by Hampshire County Council

Anything goes at West Sussex

There appears to be no consensus as to the future of local government in West Sussex. After nine months of negotiations the eight councils (West Sussex CC plus the seven second tier councils) have put forward five separate proposals to central government.
1. A single West Sussex unitary authority with a population of 900,000 (WSCC backs this option)
2. To split the county into a western authority (Arun, Chichester and Worthing) and an eastern authority (Adur, Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex)
3. To have a north east authority (Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex) and a south west authority (Arun, Adur, Chichester and Worthing) Chichester DC backs this option
4. To split the county into a northern half (Mid Sussex, Crawley, Horsham and some of the northern parishes of Chichester) and a southern area comprising Arun, Adur, Worthing and the southern parts of Chichester)
5. To cede Adur and Worthing to Brighton with the rest of West Sussex forming a large unitary authority (pop. 723,000). Brighton and Hove (283,000 pop.) is currently a Unitary authority but is well below the government's threshold of 500,000.
To read the full 182 page report go to: www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/future-of-local-government-in-sussex/

Development

HBC planning applications

Havant BC has been introducing a new computer system to deal with planning applications which has resulted in the Planning Portal being out of commission for some while. This means that The Ems does not have up to date information on some planning applications and decisions. We hope that this situation will be remedied in time for the Winter edition of the paper. Below is information on planning that was available up to the end of August.

Council says no to InPost parcel locker

HBC have refused retrospective application APP/25/00147 by InPost for a parcel locker outside Co-op in High St. The parcel locker was finally removed in late September

HBC refuses permission for pet shop to move into industrial premises

Application APP/25/00113 for change of use at Unit 1, Palmers Road, Emsworth from B2 to E retail for use as a store selling pet food and products with associated works, including the installation of double glazed window and door to front elevation, has been refused. This application was from Mary Puppins pet shop who have been trading from 20 High St since 2020. It is believed that the owner did not want to renew the lease on the High St site. Unit 1 Palmers Road had previously been used for motor cycle repairs. The decision to refuse was made by HBC Planning Committee on 14 August. Mary Puppins have now formally appealed against the decision.

Liftoff (formerly Launchpad) faculty gets approval

Planning applications APP/25/00249 & 250 have been approved by Havant BC for the proposed conversion (and associated works) of 2.5 storey hotel (old doctors surgery) (Class C1) building to form a charitable educational facility (Class F1(a)). Construction of a two-storey 'Real World Learning' building (replacing currently permitted 2-storey café and construction of single storey educational 'pods' (Class F1(a).

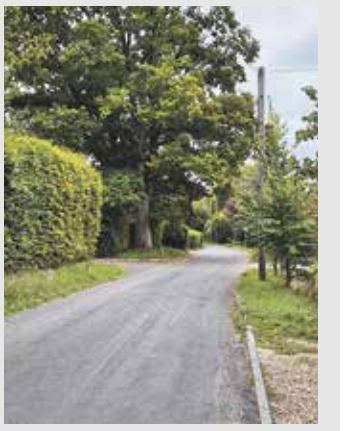
We have been asked to clarify that Hampshire Highways did initially raise concern about potential drop off's based on an assumption that the development was a school which has specific requirements re parking/drop off etc. When explained otherwise and after meeting Hampshire Highways revised requirements, planning approval was given by HBC.

Under consideration

At the time of going to press the following planning applications were still being considered:

APP/24/01010 Business Park at Interbridges East, New Brighton Road. There is a major gas pipeline going through this site which appears to be holding up this application. A traffic monitoring camera system was set close to this site, presumably to produce data that would support the application.

Long Copse Lane - Worrying times ahead?



A draft Local Plan was confidently presented to Emsworth residents at Emsworth Community Centre on 5 June. LCL was presented by HBC as a major site that is required to meet government housing targets. We dispute this. Since then, Land & Partners have withdrawn their proposal to build 220 houses and have stated that Henry Adams in Chichester will now handle the promotion. Henry Adams have confirmed that they are representing landowners but not actively promoting the site until the outcome of what they described as an HBC review. Meanwhile, they confirmed their expertise and say they have a solution to the challenging Nutrient Neutrality issue.

We have contacted our local councillors for their views and Councillor Reuben Mychaleckyj responded:

> "The development of Long Copse Lane has long been a concern for residents with very good reason. This development will have a negative impact on the area. It will disturb the wildlife and isolate the animals living nearby. The road has suffered huge damage from the construction of the 9/10 house already built and is totally unsuitable for the construction traffic that 260 houses will generate."
>
> "The present government has set housing targets using an over simplistic formula which completely ignores the capacity of the area to support them. It is removing the protections for nature in its Planning and Infrastructure Bill. The sea grass that provides habitats for fish stocks and removes carbon at over thirty times the rate of trees is dying from the overload of sewerage and more houses will accelerate this loss."

Our conclusion is that the threat of development has not gone away and is likely to be around for some considerable time. We will keep you informed of any new information as soon as possible. We would urge you to raise your concerns about the Local Plan and other issues with your local Councillors. Continued public opposition is essential.

The Save Long Copse Lane Team

Southleigh

Bloor intends to build 2000 houses on the Southleigh site (land between Denvilles and Emsworth). The Ems has approached Bloor for an update but there is nothing to report at this stage. An outline planning application is expected sometime next year.

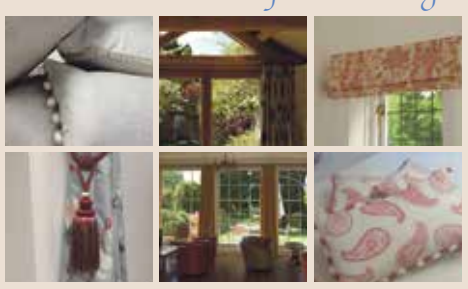
www.bloorsouthleigh.co.uk

Land for sale near Thorney Island

Some 25 hectares of grassy marshland is being sold by the Ministry of Defence. The area is north of Thorney Island which houses Baker Barracks and the Royal Engineers. The land is currently being used for livestock grazing.

Matt Austin

Elizabeth Turner Soft Furnishings



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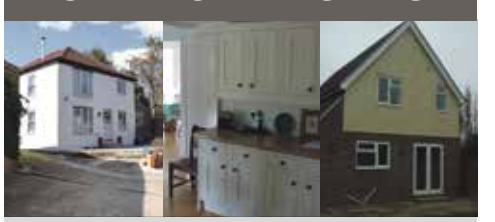

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Emsworth Town Council

Words by Dwynwen Stepien, Chair, ERF

Local control, local investment and local pride

Thanks to all of you who have signed the Town Council petition. So far we have received just under 900 responses. Havant Borough Council is putting forward a proposal to undertake a Community Governance Review. They will have 12 months to consult widely with residents and stakeholders on the rationale and need for a Town Council. Hayling Island residents will also be consulted about becoming a Town Council and Waterlooville is petitioning its residents.

Why is it a good idea?

We want a voice and a say in very local matters. It is a proven way of making sure local residents get the services they want and need.

How much will it cost?

Probably about £2 a week will manage all our assets as well as make some improvements. It will include a small staff team to make sure things actually happen and that Emsworth has strong links to the new authority. Every pound raised is spent in Emsworth.

Is a Town Council another tier of government?

Yes, because without it you will have to try

Judi Darley

and communicate with a council representing more than 500,000 residents. Without it our voice will not be heard.

Will a Town Council make a difference?

Yes, town and parish councils have a proven track record of looking after the local community and getting things done. Our West Sussex neighbours are all parishes.

Seize the moment

If you're passionate about keeping Emsworth's character alive and thriving, this initiative is all about putting the town first. Please sign the petition if you haven't already.

https://emsworthresidentsforum.org.uk/a-town-council-for-emsworth/

We are not alone in wanting a Town Council. I have asked colleagues in Hayling and Waterlooville for updates on their campaigns. I also received a letter from a Westbourne resident about the success of their Parish Council. HCC Councillor Lulu Bowerman has also added her comments.

Why I support the Petition for a Hayling Council

The Government's December 2024 English Devolution White Paper that was followed swiftly by its February 2025 update on Local Government Reorganisation combined to change my mind, and to support a petition for a Hayling Council. Of key importance for me is the White Paper's Section 4.1 and 4.2.3 statements on Communities' fundamental importance in enabling the proposed devolution. Peppered throughout these Government public papers are references to ensuring 'community voices' are represented and that 'people have influence over their place and their valued community assets.' Specifically it states: "We will also work with the town and parish council sector to improve engagement between them and local authorities."

Both our county and borough councils will disappear by 2028, being subsumed into single Unitary Authorities of 500,000. Therefore small, local communities will inevitably have a radically reduced voice in such large-scale strategic and funding decisions. This is why we need our own local council, hopefully with the means to raise income from the island's assets for our own local needs.

Anne Skennerton, Chair, Hayling Island Residents' Association

Waterlooville Together

We are running a petition to create a Town Council for Waterlooville to protect local representation and protect local assets like parks, play areas, allotments and community buildings that may not be maintained properly and closed/sold off as a result of Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire. The benefits of a Town Council are:

- Directly elected body focused solely on Waterlooville's needs
- Safeguards local identity
- Will help protect local assets like parks, playing fields/play areas, allotments and community buildings, Waterlooville precinct etc
- Will be run by local people with your interest in the town at its heart
- Will be able to sponsor local community groups and events
- Will be a statutory consultee for the new unitary Council on planning matters and be the main focal point for the unitary council to consult on its services and plans
- Every pound raised for the Town Council will be reinvested within Waterlooville

Join Waterlooville Regeneration Facebook page. Contact WaterloovilleTCpetition@gmail.com

https://www.facebook.com/groups/3532082907027124/posts/4222095904692484/

Westbourne Parish Council

Westbourne Parish Council have responsibility for many services in the village which include play parks, tree planting, road speeds, street lights, church yards, allotments and many more. They hold meetings every month to which any villager can attend and have their say. In addition, they organise an Annual Assembly which is an opportunity for villagers to find out about all the groups in Westbourne and what they are doing. These are always well attended. Villagers receive newsletters three times a year to keep them informed.

The Parish Council work very closely with Westbourne Community Trust and have assisted them in getting 12 much needed affordable houses built. The need for these was first identified by the Parish Council when a housing need survey was carried out for the neighbourhood plan. The project has also allowed for investment in a new playground for local children. In addition, residents will benefit from the provision of additional off street parking spaces. This is just one example of how our parish council has met the needs of the village.

Westbourne Resident

Cllr Lulu Bowerman, HCC Emsworth & St Faiths

A Town Council for Emsworth will ensure that our residents' voices are represented locally in the new proposed local government structure which to me is the true meaning of 'neighbourhood empowerment'. There is already an effective residents forum in Emsworth and a neighbourhood plan so a town council is a natural progression for future local representation.

Clockwise from top left: Westbourne, Emsworth Town Council meeting, Hayling Island, Waterlooville

Council News

HAMPSHIRE

1300 asylum seekers in Hampshire

The vast majority of the 1300 asylum seekers in Hampshire are housed in Portsmouth (749) and Southampton (286) . At present there are only 14 asylum seekers living in Havant. A government proposal to house 35 asylum seekers in converted offices in Waterlooville resulted in protests involving over 1000 people. The plan was dropped by the Home Office after the accommodation was seen as unsuitable. Havant BC said it had raised concerns about the building not being compliant with fire regulations, and asked how the safety of its inhabitants would be ensured.

BBC Local Democracy Reporting Service

Telephone bookings to be scrapped for waste recycling centres

Hampshire County Council will scrap telephone bookings and payments for people wanting to use recycling centres. From March next year, all bookings must be made through a new system, which will not allow telephone reservations. The council said the decision was made due to concerns about the effectiveness and speed of responses within the current system, as well as the high cost of the service.

Drivers with vans and trailers must obtain a digital permit issued by the new service. This will replace printed ones. Currently, the county council provides 24 HWRCs across Hampshire for residents to deliver their bulky household and garden waste, overseeing a countywide service contract with Veolia, which also incorporates HWRCs provided by Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council.

BBC Local Democracy Reporting Service

Residents can now recycle more plastic with the help of new bins

Havant Borough Council has introduced new public recycling bins throughout the borough to help expand the range of household plastics that are currently collected with home recycling collections. Plastic pots, tubs and trays can now be taken to one of five sites in the borough for recycling. This is in support of the Simpler Recycling policy introduced by central government to make recycling simpler and enabling householders to recycle as much waste as possible.

Plastic items that currently cannot be recycled in kerbside collections, such as:

- Plastic pots (e.g. yoghurt pots, non-black plant pots)
- Plastic tubs (e.g. margarine & ice cream tubs, biscuit tubs)
- Plastic trays (e.g. meat trays, fruit & veg punnets)

can all now be taken to the new 1,100 litre recycling bins, that can be found in the following locations:

- Hollybank Recreation Car Park, Southleigh Road, Emsworth
- The Leisure Centre, Civic Road, Havant
- Elm Grove Car Park, Hollow Lane, Hayling Island
- Tidworth Road Car Park, Tidworth Road, Leigh Park
- Asda Car Park, Hambledon Road, Waterlooville

N Fewings

These items will then be collected and taken to a dedicated plastic recycling facility for processing.

WEST SUSSEX

Council adopts new Chichester Local Plan

Chichester District Council has officially adopted the Chichester Local Plan 2021–2039, following approval at a Full Council meeting on Tuesday 19 August. This marks a significant milestone in shaping the future of the area, setting out a comprehensive vision for the area's economy; transport and housing needs; environmental and historic protection; community health and wellbeing; and cultural development. The adopted plan, which covers the area of the Chichester District outside the South Downs National Park, identifies housing requirements and development areas to support economic growth and deliver new homes over the next 14 years. It also includes a wide range of policies addressing areas such as design standards, climate change, and the natural environment.

Adoption of the plan follows completion of an independent examination process, which began in May last year when the council submitted the plan to the Government's Planning Inspectorate. The Inspectors assessed the plan, supporting evidence, and public feedback, and held a series of public hearings before identifying a number of 'main modifications' needed to make the plan 'sound'. In April and May, the council consulted on these modifications and after reviewing the responses, the Inspectors issued a final report confirming that the plan, with the recommended modifications, is sound, legally compliant, and ready for adoption.

The Local Plan will guide future development and provide the policies against which planning applications will be assessed. It also supports parish councils in preparing neighbourhood plans.

www.chichester.gov.uk/localplan

Planning Inspectors full report and the Full Council report are both available at: www.chichester.gov.uk/localplanexaminationnews

Hampshire County Council paid out more than £12.7 million in redundancy payments to staff leaving the authority last year

Exit packages have cost the county council more than £14 million over the past two years. Figures published by the government show the authority paid out the fifth most in exit payments across England in 2024/25 – behind only Birmingham City Council, Somerset Council, Leeds City Council and Shropshire Council.

The total sum paid out in the last financial year by Hampshire County Council was £12.765 million across 590 exit packages. This was more than £11 million above the figure for 2023/24, when the council paid £1.486 million for 100 packages. The totals include money attached directly to redundancy policies, contributions to pension schemes and in some cases voluntary ex-gratia payments. A spokesperson for the county council said a voluntary resignation scheme held during 2024/25 saw 340 employees leave the organisation, saving £14 million annually in ongoing staff costs.

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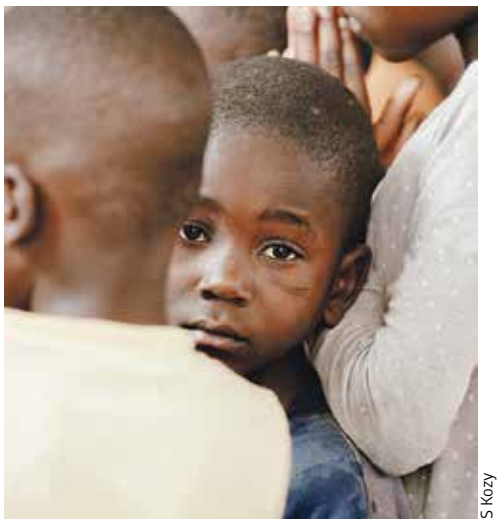
BBC Local Democracy Reporting Service

Asylum seekers


S Kozy

There are 1018 asylum seekers in West Sussex. Most are housed in Mid Sussex and Crawley. There are 199 asylum seekers in Chichester.

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Words by BBC Local Democracy Reporting Service

Local Government Reform

How much councils are spending on consultants for local government reorganisation work

More than half a million pounds has been spent on consultants to help Hampshire councils formulate proposals for the major restructure of local authorities. The 15 councils across the county and the Isle of Wight had until September 26 to submit their preferred option for local government reorganisation (LGR). Under a national scheme by the Labour government, LGR will see the current two-tier system replaced with larger unitary councils delivering all services.

As reported, Hampshire County Council and East Hampshire decided to work on their own plans as a partnership, while Gosport Borough Council is opposed to LGR and has not committed any financial resources to formulating proposals. Much of the consultancy cost has been covered using a £542,174 grant from government, which was awarded to support LGR preparations and split proportionally between the councils. The response each of our local authorities gave to the Local Democracy Reporting Service on consultant expenditure is summarised as follows:

- **Hampshire County Council:** Contributed approximately £81,000 towards joint consultancy work to date. Not paid anything on its own consultants.
- **Havant:** Contributed £6,333.34 to the joint work with KPMG so far and expecting around a further £7,000 on this. Not employed its own consultants.

Council debt across Hampshire and the Solent has topped £2.7 billion

Nine local authorities in the region continued to have an outstanding borrowing level in excess of £100 million. Southampton City Council saw its debt increase £46.4 million over 12 months to £359 million at the end of March. The figures, collated by the BBC Shared Data Unit from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government data, suggested Hampshire County Council had a larger increase of almost £60 million to £250.3 million. However, a spokesperson for the county council said this was due to an 'error' by their bank and there had been a £3.4 million reduction in debt from 2023/24.

Portsmouth City Council saw its debt fall by almost £21 million in the year to March 31, 2025, but it still had the highest outstanding total in the county at £682.9 million. Eastleigh Borough Council's borrowing rose from £577 million to £578.8 million to retain the second largest total in Hampshire. New Forest District Council also saw a notable debt level rise, going up from £124 million to £132.9 million, while Rushmoor Borough Council's figure increased £4 million to £166 million. The lowest debt figure was at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, where it fell from £116,000 to £98,000. Havant's debt was £2,938,000, down by £109,000 from the previous year.

L Debroise

Portsmouth CC has debt totalling £682.9m

BBC Shared Data Unit

Devolution

Hampshire and the Solent region have received confirmation from the government that devolution is going ahead, with a mayoral election taking place next year (probably on 7 May) . The region is now set to gain its own powers over transport, housing, education, healthcare, and local economic development.

Devolution plans involve transferring powers from Westminster to Hampshire and the Solent region, alongside additional funding and investment.

In February, Hampshire and the Solent, along with Sussex and Brighton, Cumbria, Cheshire, Warrington, Norfolk and Suffolk, and Greater Essex, joined the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP). This fast-track programme was the government's tool to expedite devolution in the country and establish strategic authorities that cover around 1.5 million people, led by elected mayors with devolved powers to drive economic growth, investment, and oversee planning and transport.

Future of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

PCC Donna Jones. The powers of the PCC will not be transferred to the mayor until 1 April 2027

The powers of the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner will not be transferred to the new mayor's office in May 2026 as part of the major shake-up to local government. In line with the government's devolution plan, the new mayor's office will eventually assume the responsibilities of the police and crime commissioner, as well as oversee the governance of the fire authority – but not immediately.

PCC Donna Jones announced that the powers would not be transferred to the mayor until 1 April 2027. She said that the decision was made by the Home Office to allow more time for the transition from one administration to another and to ensure all mechanisms are in place. Hampshire and the Solent is set to establish a new Mayoral Combined Authority for Southampton, Portsmouth, Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight, with elections for a mayor to be held in May 2026. Devolution plans involve transferring powers over transport, housing, education, healthcare, and local economic development from Westminster to Hampshire and the Solent region, alongside additional funding and investment.

As part of the role, a deputy mayor will be appointed for policing, fire, and criminal justice to take control over the office of the police and crime commissioner and, in some cases, the governance of the fire and rescue authority. They will be responsible for holding the police to account, setting police and crime plans and budgets and becoming the elected voice of the public in policing.

Former Havant council leader appointed Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Alex Rennie, the newly appointed Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

The new deputy police and crime commissioner was grilled by a panel of councillors before he was appointed. Alex Rennie, a former Conservative councillor and Havant Borough Council leader, was questioned by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Crime Panel. PCC Donna Jones said she nominated Mr Rennie for the role because he has the perfect CV save for the fact he had not been a police officer. She said he was analytical, had the experience of being the voice for the public, had worked in the public sector, and was good with numbers. Mr Rennie said he wanted the post because he relished public service and took the opportunity to come back to Hampshire, having grown up in Rowlands Castle. He said he would be Ms Jones' eyes and ears going around the county, and was concerned about tackling everything from shoplifting to graffiti from road safety to drugs. The DPCC post commands a salary of £66,925 pa.

Mr Rennie started as a ward councillor in 2018, then became leader of a Conservative Havant Borough Council administration from 2021 to 2024 until he lost his seat in May last year. He has also worked in the office of Alan Mak MP from 2016 to 2022. Most recently he has been working as a senior advisor in Westminster to Mark Garnier MP, Shadow Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury.

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News from our Councillors

Green Party

Cllr Grainne Rason

Firstly, I want to thank everyone who supports me and, more importantly, who works tirelessly in our community to make Emsworth the wonderful place it is to live and work. Much of my recent time has been taken up with the Local Government reorganisation. By the time you read this, the council will have made its submission. The proposed shift to a unitary authority centred around Portsmouth makes the case for an Emsworth Town Council even stronger. With 40% fewer councillors under the new structure, local representation will inevitably be reduced. I have been working closely with Emsworth Residents Forum on this process, which will take more than a year to complete.

Closer to home, you may have noticed that a corner of the Park was left uncut from April. This is one of eleven 'relaxed mowing' sites across the area, designed to increase biodiversity. Despite a record-breaking wet winter followed by drought, we have already seen an increase in species. My butterfly survey at Brook Meadow reflects the national trend of rising butterfly numbers. Long grasses and wild plants are essential to help insects survive the winter. I'm also pleased to report that the long-awaited traffic calming measures outside Emsworth Primary School are now complete. These will make the journey to school safer for children and reduce rat-run traffic through the area.

Finally, I want to recognise Emsworth's many independent businesses. Emsworth is unique in having so many wonderful local shops. I know retail and hospitality face growing financial pressures, and I am working with others to explore ways to provide support. As your Green Party Councillor, I'm proud to represent our beautiful community and continue working hard for a cleaner, greener, and fairer Emsworth.

Cllr Reuben Mychaleckyj

As your councillor for Emsworth, I've spent the past year working hard to tackle the issues that matter most to our community. Whether it's fighting to improve safety on Horndean Road, pushing for more investment in our play areas, or challenging the rise in local car parking charges that unfairly impact families and small businesses, I've tried to make sure your voices are heard at every level of council decision-making.

I've also been volunteering with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Solent Seagrass project, helping to restore our precious coastal ecosystems. Protecting our natural environment is not just about biodiversity – it's also about safeguarding the health, wellbeing, and future of our community here in Emsworth.

We've had to face some difficult challenges too, not least the pressure from national planning laws that mean large housing developments like Southleigh are forced through without proper regard for local infrastructure. Traffic on our roads has already doubled in the past decade, and without fairer rules from central government, communities like ours are left dealing with the consequences.

Despite these challenges, I remain committed to ensuring Emsworth continues to thrive. By working together – listening to residents, supporting our clubs and community groups, and protecting our green spaces – we can build a stronger, safer, and more sustainable future for our town.

Cllr Charles Robert

Where does your heart lie with the forthcoming changes to local government? Do you feel Emsworth will be better served? I find it hard to decide if this will be an improvement to our lives. There is much that remains unknown. What is certain is that the Mayor will have enormous power to make decisions. What is also pretty much certain is that Havant will form part of a Unitary Authority with Portsmouth, Gosport and Fareham. There will be fewer councillors per head of the population. Will you notice; does it really matter?

What concerns me is that Emsworth residents will not be sufficiently represented. Havant Borough Council owns assets within the Emsworth ward. How safe will those assets be? I am concerned for Emsworth Museum. The museum benefits from excellent stewardship. It houses a magnificent collection of artefacts and information which is entirely based on the history of Emsworth. The building belongs to the borough.

We have our open spaces. How safe are they from future development? One option which is being investigated is the formation of a local Town Council.

I am strongly in favour of the setting up of this third tier of government. I believe it offers some protection and a local voice, which can be used to draw attention to issues that may affect the town over the coming years.

As an Emsworth Councillor I shall continue to keep involved with these developments but I also ask you to share your concerns and your questions because what is most important is that we seek to try and make the best of this change to how we are governed, so please do get in touch.

Lulu Bowerman

HCC Councillor for Emsworth and St Faiths

It has been a busy summer for me at Hampshire County Council with Devolution and Local Government Reform (LGR) and also with the usual workload as Executive Member for Highways and Passenger Transport.

Victoria Road

Traffic speeds in Victoria Road have always been an issue, especially outside Emsworth Primary School, and I have been asking for this to be improved for many years. After several consultations I was really pleased when work began in August and was scheduled to be completed before the school re-opened. Despite the heavy rain at the beginning of September the work was completed at the start of the autumn term. The raised platform outside the school will slow the traffic and allocated parking spaces will improve inconsiderate parking. Please drive carefully along both Victoria Road and Selangor Avenue – particularly when children are being dropped off at school in the morning and collected from school in the afternoon.

Underpass in Washington road

I was disappointed to see the underpass in Washington Road was flooded again despite all the work carried out in spring 2024. We all know this has been an ongoing problem for a long time and finding a solution seems to be difficult because of funding and all the different agencies involved; e.g. National Highways, water companies and HCC. I requested that the Highways engineers visited the underpass and subsequently Portsmouth Water and Southern Water have been on site to inspect the drains. Some clearance work has taken place to ensure water is flowing to the ditch and this will be re-inspected regularly. Meanwhile I will continue to push for a more permanent solution.

The proposed development at Southleigh

I recently had a meeting with senior officers from Bloor Homes regarding the proposed development at Southleigh in my capacity as Executive Member for Highways and county councillor for Emsworth and St Faiths. I wanted to discuss with them their vision of managing the traffic that will inevitably come from building 2000+ new properties and impact on the existing local roads which are already over congested, especially at peak times. Clearly they are still very much in the planning stage with active travel routes around the site between Emsworth and Havant and road improvements, but additional routes were discussed and will be followed up by myself and Highways planning officers.

A quick guide to reporting problems on the roads

Whether it's potholes, flooding, broken streetlights or overgrown hedges — knowing how to report them to Hampshire County Council makes all the difference.

Always remember that National Highways are responsible for motorways and trunk roads, e.g. A27.

Using the Hampshire Highways Reporting Portal is simple. Here are links to report popular autumn road issues:

Potholes: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes

Tree/hedge problems: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-aproblem/treehedge

Flooding/drainage issues: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-aproblem/flooding

There is also an online Community Toolkit to help residents with flooding: www.hants.gov.uk/News/20241002FloodCheckAwareness

Some dates for your diary

Remembrance Day Service
11.00 on Tuesday 11 November in Emsworth Memorial garden in the park on Horndean Road. This lovely garden is maintained by volunteers and enjoyed by visitors all year round and is a special place for Remembrance.

Christmas celebrations in Emsworth
Christmas lights switch on: from 5.30pm on Friday 28 November

Christmas Market Day: Saturday 20 December

Carols on the Quay (near the Lobster Pot Tree): 11.00 - 11.45; Saturday 20 December

Tree shredding: Saturday 3 January 10 am -12 pm

The raised platform outside the school will slow the traffic and allocated parking spaces will improve parking.

News from Havant Rotary Club

The final figures for Havant Rotary's Giant Easter Egg raffle have just come in. This year the Havant Club masterminded the whole campaign and involved five other Rotary Clubs in our area: Southsea Castle, Fareham, Eastleigh, Locks Heath and Whiteley. Working together the total amount raised for charity this year was a magnificent £37,300! In the four years that this project has been running the total raised for charity now tops an amazing £63500.

Our local community has been very generous in supporting this campaign and has raised funds to be used either directly or through their chosen charities, including Cancer Research, Rowans Hospice, McMillan nurses, Feed Havant, Friends of Staunton Park and several schools including St Thomas More Primary, Bosmere Juniors, Bidbury Infants and Juniors.

Geoff James, organiser of the Easter Egg Campaign for Havant Rotary said, "We are delighted that so many different schools, charities and projects were able to raise much needed funds." A huge thank you to all those members of the public for their kind donations and to all the Rotary Clubs who helped to make the Giant Easter Egg Raffle so successful and helped to support 150 different charities.

RNLI

The RNLI Emsworth Quay Sale on Saturday 9 August was a great success. The Emsworth and Havant Branch raised £1864.16 from the stalls on the day. Additionally, a further £646.32 was raised from selling RNLI souvenirs giving a grand total of £2510.48. Thank you to the many members of the public for your very generous contributions.

A grand total of £2510.48 was raised at the Quay Sale

The event was made more special with a presentation by the Havant Deputy Mayor, Paul Tansom, of a 40th year RNLI service medal to Barbara Rice. Barbara did not know about the presentation in advance, which made the event more of a special surprise for her. We were very appreciative of the presence of Paul Tansom and his wife at the event.

Emsworth Textile Artists have created an embroidery to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the RNLI. It is in the style of the D-Day embroidery at the Portsmouth D-Day Museum. We were privileged to be able to display this very special embroidery at the Quay Sale. We are very grateful to the Emsworth Textile Artists for supporting the event.

Rotary Clubs Help Queen Alexandra's Hospital New Children's Emergency Department

It started with an Easter Egg delivery by the President of Havant Rotary Club last Spring and a conversation with Zoe Parton, the Children's Emergency Department Play Specialist. She explained the importance of a child friendly environment especially colourfully painted walls, as this puts children at ease, but the wall art was not in the initial plans for the new department. The Havant President decided to solve this problem by raising funds with the help of his club and other clubs in the catchment area of the hospital.

The local Rotary Clubs have really come up trumps with their help to solve the bare walls problem. Havant Rotary donated £3450 which was mainly raised from collections at Tesco and Waitrose; Fareham ran a Call My Bluff Evening and raised £1405; Portsmouth and Southsea raised £1000, Gosport £500, Portsmouth North £1000, Southsea Castle £500, Whitely £500 and Fareham Meon £1000. Altogether the local Rotary Clubs have donated £9030.87 to the hospital for the decoration.

Seaside themed artwork by Lizzie Cornelius

Lizzie Cornelius, founder of icanseethesea (https://icanseethesea.com) and a local artist, has kindly donated a collection of her wonderful artwork which follows the theme of the beautiful British seaside, created in her studio at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. The artworks all start as an original painting and are then adapted to be printed in large format on vinyl.

Vicki King, Havant Rotary Club

Remembrance Day outdoor service

The annual Remembrance Day service will take place at the Memorial Garden, Emsworth Recreation Ground, Horndean Road on Tuesday 11 November 2025. The event commences at 1050.

Remembrance Sunday Parade

On Sunday 9 November the Uniform Youth and Community Remembrance Parade and Church service will be held. The parade sets off from the bottom off Queen St at 2.15 pm led by Horndean Band, followed by Girls Brigade, Girl Guides, Scouts and soldiers from Thorney Island. The Parade will go up through the town to St James Church for the Remembrance service. The Deputy Mayor off Havant will be attending the service which all are welcome to attend.

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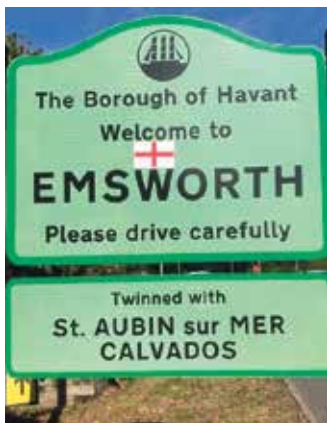
Community

Town Twinning



So how often do you drive past this sign, I wonder? If you travel along the A259 on your way home from either Havant or Southbourne you will certainly spot it but do you ever ask yourself where St Aubin-sur-Mer actually is, or what it's got to do with Calvados (that's an apple brandy isn't it?) or indeed what this twinning business is all about?

For starters, St Aubin-sur-Mer, as the name suggests, is on the coast; the Normandy coast in fact, and just a short 30-minute drive from the Caen/Ouistreham ferry port. On D-Day in 1944 it was an important bridgehead for Canadian troops as they attempted to land there and became known in Operation Overlord as Juno Beach. The beaches east and west of St Aubin were known as Sword Beach and Gold Beach and it was there that many British soldiers landed in what the French call the Battle of Normandy

As for Calvados, yes, it is an apple brandy but it's also the name of the French department in which St Aubin is situated. Its capital, the town of Caen, is situated some 30 miles south of our twin town. Bayeux, of tapestry fame, is also nearby. The area is famous for cider and perry as well as Calvados and with dairy farming still a very important part of the rural economy, excellent cheeses are produced locally.

And so to the twinning of our two towns: how did the whole concept of twinning towns and cities with other countries first come about? And how long has Emsworth been twinned with St Aubin? The twinning idea came about after WWII particularly as a way of fostering relations between countries which had previously been enemies as a way of fostering peace and better relations between their communities. As well as being twinned with Emsworth, for example, St Aubin is twinned with Liebenburg in Germany and also Bathurst, New Brunswick, in Canada and has cultural links to the Republic of Congo in Africa

Next year we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary as St Aubin's twin town. Who are we? The St Aubin-Emsworth Twinning Association, known as SAETA for short. In May a group of us will be travelling over on the ferry to stay with our French hosts for a weekend of celebrations. This year our friends came over here at the beginning of June so in 2026 it will be our turn to go there. These annual visits have been the highlight of our Twinning calendar for many years now only being curtailed by the Covid epidemic

In addition to these visits, we hold regular social events throughout the year and would love to hear from you if you would like to know more about us or to find out how to join SAETA. Being able to speak French is an advantage, not a prerequisite.

Alternatively, if you have a few hours to spare before catching the late ferry from France home one day you could spend a lovely hour or two strolling along the seafront in St Aubin or even enjoying a meal in one of the restaurants. In my view the area has much more to offer but sadly so many Brits simply drive through Normandy on their way further south. It really is worth a visit.

St Aubin-sur-Mer has been twinned with Emsworth for nearly 40 years

Nitot/Wikipedia

For more information about SAETA please email either the membership secretary, Tim Mathews SAETA.Treasurer@gmail.com or myself, Carol Mant caznor65@yahoo.com

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10,000th passenger boards the Bourne Bus

The Bourne Community Bus celebrates its third successful year with over 10,000 passengers now carried and a 15% annual growth in numbers. The Bourne Bus also runs under a new bus licence, making the service far more financially self-sufficient.

Passengers on the Bourne Community Bus

Founder Andrew Kerry-Bedell said, "Whilst a few now pay £3 per journey, like other buses, we've organised our service so all bus pass holders still travel free, which is still over 90% of our passengers. In fact we're even more in demand now, with the closure of the Westbourne Surgery, so we're taking lots more people from areas with no public transport to get essential healthcare."

The bus picks up at safe stops every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 – 4:30, taking residents to popular destinations like Emsworth and Tesco Havant from Southbourne, Westbourne and Hambrook. We also run a Wednesday South Downs service to Rowlands Castle and Stansted Park gardens and café. The Bourne Bus is still available for low-cost hire too, with or without a driver, helping local communities and social groups access local events, fairs, gardens, the theatre and for their own private social outings.

For the Wednesday timetable and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday routes see www.bournebus.co.uk/timetable

For services, latest bus news and a bus hire booking form see www.bournebus.co.uk

For low-cost bus hire rates for local social trips see www.bournebus.co.uk/hire-the-bus

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St James', Emsworth and St Thomas à Becket, Warblington

Wonder Zone Holiday Club

This year's holiday club at St James' School was a resounding success, with around 45 children taking part and a fantastic team of 26 volunteers, including five young leaders, helping to make it all happen. We enjoyed exploring the link between science and faith, brought to life through engaging Bible stories and hands-on experiments – from popping film canisters to giant bubbles. The children loved the games, with caterpillar rounders and exploding canisters proving to be firm favourites. The highlight of each day was the drama Who is the Mole? culminating in the grand finale (when the mole was finally caught!) during the Sunday celebration service at St James' Church. The church was packed as families and friends gathered to enjoy highlights from an action-packed week.

The club explored the link between science and faith

Dates for your diaries

Remembrance Sunday, 9 November

- St James' Church – an all-age Remembrance service at 10am followed by an afternoon service at 2.45pm with uniformed organisations.
- St Thomas à Becket Church – a Remembrance service starting at 10.55am.

Christmas at St James'

- Christingle Service, Sunday 7 December, 10am. A joyful celebration for all ages as we celebrate Jesus' coming as the light for our world.
- Carol Service by Candlelight, Saturday 14 December, 6.30pm. A beautiful evening of choral music and Christmas readings.
- Crib Services, Christmas Eve, 4.30pm & 6.30pm. Bring the family along at 4.30pm for a fun, interactive retelling of the nativity story, or join us for a quieter, more reflective version at 6.30pm.
- Midnight Communion, Christmas Eve, 11.30pm. Traditionally a time for Christians to rejoice and welcome the birth of Jesus.
- Christmas Day Celebration for all ages, 10am.

Christmas at St Thomas à Becket

- Carol Services, Saturday 21 December. Join us for services at 11am and 6.30pm, perfect for getting into the Christmas spirit. The evening service is candlelit.
- 'Midnight' Communion, Christmas Eve, 9pm. A first Communion of Christmas, but at an earlier time for those who prefer not to be out too late.
- Christmas Day Celebration, 11am.

For more info please visit:
www.warblingtonwithemsworth.org
Facebook: @WarblingtonwithEmsworth
Instagram: @Warblingtonwithemsworth

Emsworth Museum

Emsworth Museum's stand at Emsworth Show was designed to encourage Emsworth residents to support and to explore the Museum. The display featured a new acquisition – a poster advertising the 24th Annual Emsworth Horticultural Show in 1896, when it was to take place in Dr Stephens' garden. At the time Dr Stephens lived in the old white surgery, and the garden extended north to include the site of the new surgery, formerly the Victoria Cottage Hospital, which was built two years later in 1898. This acquisition has the solid Emsworth provenance that is critical for every new object the Museum accepts. The display also announced the opening of the exhibition recording the short life but dramatic life of the Portsmouth to Arundel Canal. The exhibition runs until 2 November. It tells a familiar story of a brilliant idea, delayed for 20 years by politics, which became a commercial disaster.

The display featured a new acquisition – a poster advertising the 24th Annual Emsworth Horticultural Show in 1896

EM&HT Winter Lecture Series

The Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust winter lecture series has just been announced and is as follows:

- **2 October** *Different perspectives upon the 1830 Swing Riots in Emsworth and Havant* by Neil Spurgeon
- **6 November** *Portsmouth and the Home Front* by JJ Marshalsay
- **5 February** *Global Wars and Chaos (How did we get there and what's the solution?)* by Field Marshall The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux
- **5 March** *Violette Szabo GC* by Jeremy Prescott
- **2 April** *Portsmouth 4 – The final chapter* by Andrew Negus
- **7 May** *Tudor Places* by Dr Rachel Delman

All the lectures will be in the Community Centre, apart from Lord Richards' lecture which will be in the Baptist Church. Tickets are on sale at Bookends £5 each, cash only.

Art Fund

On 1 September, Emsworth Museum joined the Art Fund and made its first appearance on their website. This means that the Museum will be publicised nationally through the Art Fund. In return, Art Fund members receive a 10 percent discount on all items bought from the Museum shop. Not only does the Art Fund support museums nationally with their marketing, it also has funds available for acquiring and commissioning objects.

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Emsworth Show

Thank You for Making Emsworth Show 2025 a Success

Words by Christina Novis, Chair, The Emsworth Show. Photos by Juliet Walker.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for Emsworth Show 2025. Glorious sunshine and hot summer weather made it the perfect day to enjoy the show, and the field was alive with visitors, laughter, and music from start to finish.

The arena acts brought plenty of smiles and applause this year. Crowds were charmed by Quack Pack, Meirion and his duck-herding sheepdog team, and entertained by comedy duo Dollie and Gracie, who hosted a wonderfully nostalgic children's sports day. We also welcomed a new face, solo singer Archie Mack, who impressed with his performance, while much-loved returning acts – Melana Dance, Alder Valley Brass, and Slow Burn Reggae – created the vibrant atmosphere we've all come to know and love.

As always, the show wouldn't be possible without the tireless efforts of our committee and the 150+ volunteers who give their time and energy to bring it all together. This community spirit is at the heart of Emsworth Show, and we are grateful to every single person who helps make it happen.

This year also marks a personal moment for me, as I step down from my role as Chair of the Committee. It has been an absolute privilege to serve in this role, and I want to thank the team and the wider community for their incredible support. The committee is now looking for a new Chair to help guide the show into the future – a wonderful opportunity for someone who shares the passion for keeping this treasured tradition alive. If you would like more information please get in touch info@emsworthshow.co.uk

Thank you once again for making Emsworth Show 2025 such a success. We look forward to welcoming you back next year on Bank Holiday Monday 31 August 2026.

Founded by Emsworth Horticultural Society
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Emsworth Artists

The Emsworth Artists Summer Exhibition was a great success again this year with many high standard, different and exciting entries. We had close to 900 visitors who voted for our internal Competitions. This year we had a new member who won the Sydney Stokes Award for the favourite exhibit - this was Rachel Parham with her pastel painting *Donkey*; in 2nd place was Vince Lavender with *Battersea Collage*; 3rd was Trevor Smith with *Curious*; equal 4th were Nadia Day with *Evening Estuary* and Penny McDougall with *Round the Island*.

The Mountford Watercolour Award was won by Marian Forster with *Promenading at Emsworth*; 2nd was Jan Copsey with *Low Tide*; 3rd was Michael Bury with *East Head* and 4th Stuart Thompson with *Emsworth Quay*.

John Martin won our Raffle prize which was a painting donated by Simon Cowper.

We also were thrilled to have a visit from Sydney Stokes' son, Jim and his wife. He was very impressed with our work and delighted that the Award in memory of his father is still being presented. He gave us a generous donation which will be added to the amount we plan to give the Community Association. Our Annual Donation to the them will be well over £1000 again.

We would like to thank all those people who visited our Exhibition and hope to see them again next year.

Rachel Parham (right) - winner of Sydney Stokes Award

John Martin - winner of the raffle

Marian Forster - winner of Mountford Watercolour Award

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Environment

Thorney Island coastal footpath reopens

Thorney Island is connected to the mainland via a narrow strip of land and is an active military base called Baker Barracks. Around the perimeter is a popular and picturesque 8-mile (13km) circular walk that passes through fields and marshes along Thorney's coastal paths, with views of mudflats and the chance to spot coastal waders and waterfowl.

In 2023 a combination of heavy rain and spring tides created a one in 75-year storm event, leading to some of the highest tide levels ever recorded along the coast. After the storm, inspection of the gate access bridge on the East side of Thorney Island under the footpath revealed serious structural issues. The survey showed that, invisible from above, the bridge structure had been dangerously corroded by the sea air and tides over many years. The gate and the footpath over it were therefore closed by West Sussex CC to protect public safety.

Following the closure and detailed surveys, it was identified that it was not possible to repair the walkway, and a replacement had to be considered. Responsibility for the walkway is still to be resolved, however for the good of all concerned, the Army agreed to initially fund the works through the Defence Infrastructure Organisation. They have engaged with WSCC over recent months to design and build a brand-new bridge, which has now been successfully installed next to the East security gate by DIO contractor Vinci.

As a polite reminder to all future users: all areas inside the public footpath around the island are part of an active Army base and a prohibited place under the National Security Act 2023. Particularly in light of recent highly public events elsewhere on military bases, for everyone's safety and our security walkers must stay on the designated footpath at all times and there are no publicly accessible short-cuts across the island.

The replacement bridge giving access to the footpath

Sandbanks off Thorney Island

About Thorney Island Walk (WSCC footpath 202)

The route runs around the island's coast, offering scenic views of Chichester Harbour and Pilsey Island. The Thorney Island coastal walk is suitable for walkers of all ages and abilities, being flat and relatively easy from Emsworth in Hampshire around to Thorney Marina and Prinsted in West Sussex.

Editor: The full route is approximately 8 miles with no toilets or cafes available once on the Island. The walk is dog friendly. Please bring plenty of water (for yourself and any dogs) and some food. There is little shelter so wear a hat if it is sunny.

Chichester Harbour Trust responds to Sir Jon Cunliffe's Independent Water Commission: Review of the Water Sector

The long-awaited Cunliffe Review into the water industry was published last week, paving the way for a radical overhaul of water treatment and its regulatory framework. If implemented, its recommendations would represent the most significant shake-up of the sector since privatisation—recognising that a broken system continues to fail both our environment and our communities.

The Chichester Harbour Trust welcomes the report's depth and ambition, particularly the proposed creation of a single, overarching regulator with authority across the water sector. Replacing self-monitoring by water companies with a fully independent monitoring regime promises greater accountability, more accurate real-time data, and vital public transparency.

We also support the recommended introduction of Regional Water Authorities based on natural catchment areas. A catchment-based approach is essential to addressing pollution from all sources—including agriculture, which is contributing at least as much to the ecological decline of Chichester Harbour as sewage discharges. Run-off containing phosphates and nitrates stimulates macroalgal mats that smother intertidal habitats, damaging saltmarsh and seagrass and devastating fish, invertebrate, and bird populations of international significance.

Chichester Harbour will not recover unless all sources of pollution are tackled. The Trust's mission to "Reverse the Decline" will only succeed if this ambition is shared and acted upon across the board.

The Government must now implement these proposals as a matter of urgency. However, implementation alone will not stop sewage spills. Achieving real change will require sustained, large-scale investment in wastewater infrastructure. The proposals in the report to strengthen financial resilience of water companies—such as minimum capital requirements and dividend restrictions—are welcome, but will be absolutely insufficient unless backed by determined government action to ensure that this critical investment is undertaken.

www.chichesterharbourtrust.org.uk

Chichester Harbour will not recover unless all sources of pollution are tackled

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Local Groups Launch 365 Days of Water Testing to Expose Pollution in Emsworth & Hayling Island

The Final Straw Foundation and Hayling Sewage Watch have launched a year-long citizen science project to test local water quality every single day for E.coli and other pollution indicators across Emsworth Harbour and Beachlands, Hayling Island.

Currently, the Environment Agency (EA) tests bathing water quality just ten days a year on Hayling Seafront between May and September, with results delayed by several days. This leaves residents and visitors without up-to-date information for much of the year.

Now, around 20 trained local volunteers, using state-of-the-art Fluidion technology, also used to test the River Seine during the 2024 Paris Olympics, will provide same-day results, giving the community access to faster, far more frequent, and more accurate data. The Fluidion sensors have been independently validated for use in public health monitoring, and the project follows internationally recognised protocols to ensure robust results.

High levels of pollution will be reported to Havant Borough Council and the Environment Agency, with the expectation that appropriate action, such as hoisting red flags to warn beachgoers, will be taken when public health may be at risk.

Water quality results will be shared regularly on Final Straw Foundation and Hayling Sewage Watch's social media channels.

Whilst this data does not replace statutory monitoring by the EA, it provides crucial local insight at the very locations where people are swimming, paddling, or boating. The project aims to inform public awareness and prompt authorities to investigate or act where necessary.

The Final Straw Foundation and Hayling Sewage Watch citizen scientists urge local authorities to respond rapidly to this data, particularly during busy summer months. Transparent, real-time water quality monitoring could protect both public health and local livelihoods.

Centurion Way extension is open

Cyclists and walkers are now able to enjoy an extra couple of miles of the Centurion Way which has been extended from West Dean to beyond the old Singleton railway station at Cucumber Farm. The Centurion Way which follows the line of the old Chichester to Midhurst railway opened in 1995. The 5 mile path starts just outside of Fishbourne by the railway bridge (rear of Bishop Luffa School) and stops at West Dean. There was a tunnel, now bricked up, which carried the railway onto Singleton. To continue the Way West Dean one has to join the A286 for about 0.5 miles and then turn left opposite the entrance to West Dean College. The path up to the old railway line is past the outbuildings. Eventually WSCC hope to extend the Centurion Way to connect it with the South Downs Way at Cocking.

www.southdowns.gov.uk/get-active/south-downs-walks/centurion-way/

Cycle parking in Emsworth town centre

Emsworth is very popular with cyclists. Cycling groups often stop at our cafes for refreshment and many local people cycle into town to go shopping. At weekends the few cycle stands are often fully utilised means that some cyclists may have to use lampposts or street signs to lock up their bikes. One of the cycle stands in The Square was in very poor condition and has now been removed by Hampshire Highways. Apparently Havant BC have been informed that they are responsible for replacing the damaged cycle stands. If you are a cyclist do let The Ems know what you think about cycle parking provision in the town.

Email: editor.theems@outlook.com

New street atlas published

Motorists may rely on Satnav but many cyclists, pedestrians and users of public transport like to have a real map to find their way around. Collins Bartholomew Ltd have recently published Portsmouth AZ Street atlas (10th edition, 2025) £8.99.

This 96 page A5 full colour atlas gives full mapping of Havant, Fareham, Gosport, Petersfield and Portsmouth at 4" to the mile. Portsmouth City Centre is covered in a large scale 8" to the mile two page map. From Whiteley in the west to Westbourne in the east and Clanfield in the north to Southsea over 8,200 streets are shown. There is a comprehensive street index at the back of the publication which also lists places of interest. AZ have also recently published a street atlas of the Southampton area. Unfortunately there does not appear to be any up-to-date street maps available for the Chichester/Bognor area.

https://collins.co.uk/collections/a-z-street-maps-atlases

Top 10 cycling tips

Centre for Ageing Better

> Clean your bike regularly

> Check tyre pressures

> Always wear a helmet

> Lock your bike up even if you are only leaving it for a short time

> Have your bike serviced annually

> Keep the chain lubricated

> Carry a pump, spare inner tube and tyre levers if you are going on any kind of longer ride. Ensure that you know how to change a tyre and repair an inner tube

> Don't wear headphones or play with your phone when cycling

> Don't cycle if you have consumed alcohol or drugs

> Avoid cycling at night. If you must ride in the dark ensure you have front and rear lights that work properly

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Environment

Ems Valley Memorial Arboretum EVMA

Letter from the Chair, Eva Mikuska

In Memory of Richard Galloway

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Richard Galloway, a valued trustee and one of the founding members of EVMA. Richard passed away peacefully on 25 September 2025. Since retirement he has been a Councillor with Havant Borough Council for 4 years, Trustee and Chair of Trustees at Ems Valley U3A, and a Tree Warden in Emsworth for over 10 years, acting as Treasurer. He has been involved with the development of Hampshire Farm Meadows both as Councillor and Tree Warden since it was transferred to Havant Borough Council's ownership. Richard played a pivotal role in the formation of the EVMA, working closely with the Charity Commission to help establish and maintain the organisation's governance. His dedication and diligence as Treasurer ensured that the EVMA was not only compliant but also financially stable and transparent. His integrity, commitment, and thoughtful leadership in registering the organisation as a charity have left a lasting impact on the EVMA and the wider community. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him, and we are incredibly grateful for his contributions and service. Our thoughts are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time.

Since our last update, we have reached some important milestones that we are excited to share with you. We are proud to announce that the EVMA Charitable Trust is now officially registered with the Charity Commission as Charity No 1214183. This formal recognition is a big step forward for our mission. If you provided Gift Aid consent on your original donation form, we are now able to reclaim Gift Aid on your donation, allowing us to make even more of a difference with your generous support.

New Arboretum Sign Unveiled: On 27 September we celebrated a significant moment with the unveiling of the second sign at the Arboretum. The event was opened by the chair of the EVMA, and the unveiling was done by Deputy Mayor Cllr Paul Tansom and Guy Schofield, one of our trustees. This new installation features an information board about EVMA, and in-memoriam plaques, commemorating those who have been remembered through the planting of trees. It serves as a lasting tribute and a place of reflection within our community space. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us for this special occasion, including generous donors, local councillors, and many others who are our passionate supporters. This was a great occasion to bring the community together. Your presence and continued support mean so much to us. To see photos and highlights from this meaningful occasion, please visit our website by scanning the QR code below.

Luis Sowerman, Frank Campbell, Deputy Mayoress and Deputy Mayor Cllr Paul Tansom, Eva Mikuska, Guy Schofield, Yvonne Copeland, Matthew Bennett and Caroline Richards.

Two New Benches to be installed: To further mark this occasion, we are pleased to announce the upcoming installation of two new benches at the Arboretum. One bench will commemorate the Emsworth Ramblers, recently disbanded but fondly remembered. The second bench will honour EVMA Founder Brendan Gibb-Gray, whose vision and dedication continue to inspire our work. Both benches have been generously and separately funded and will offer peaceful spaces for reflection and remembrance. These milestones would not be possible without your ongoing encouragement and generosity. As we continue to grow and develop the Arboretum, your support helps us preserve it as a living tribute to the community and those we remember.

Concerning Tree Losses due to Drought: We have lost in total 19 out of 168 (c11%). This was despite weekly watering using 1000 litres at a time from late May to Mid-August. Inevitably with the large diversity of trees we are experimenting with (over 50 different species) there will be some that struggle with the conditions. We will be replacing most of these losses this autumn (tree planting session is due on 29 November), and refining our tree selection and watering methods for next year. However, it is not all bad news; many trees are thriving, and it has been heartening to see strong growth in several areas. In particular, the curly willow (*Salix matsudana 'Tortuosa'*) is flourishing, showing just how resilient and rewarding this living landscape can be.

Your support enables us to continue caring for and growing this special place, even when nature tests us.

If anyone needs to contact us about anything in this letter, please use the e-mail info@evma.org.uk or scan our QR code for up to date information and news items. There is also an interactive map (which will be updated with the latest planting) where one can identify all the trees so far planted https://evma.org.uk/the-trees/tree-locator. Anyone interested in work parties should register with Friends of Hampshire Farm Meadows (Neil Mant hfmfriends@gmail.com).

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The 9th Emsworth Beer, Cider and Wine Festival, organised by WEMSFEST

Words and photos by Suzy Gardiner

The 9th Beer, Cider and Wine Festival took place in Emsworth over the weekend of 19-21 September at the Community Centre.

Visitors to the festival included Nigel and Nikki Waters who have recently moved back to the UK after spending 35 years in Australia. The couple have returned to be near to family in Prinsted. The Waters were impressed by the variety of events and activities held at Emsworth Community Centre and clearly intend to be regulars, not least to the beer festival. Nigel's pint of choice on the night was Cairngorm (Aviemore) Black Gold, a 2025 CAMRA Champion Winter Beer, described as 'Nutty to the end'. The festival would not be complete without the customary visit from regulars, The Gaskell Family. The Gaskells have attended all of the nine festivals to date, bar one. Their enthusiasm and enjoyment of the event is infectious and of course they have every reason to be, with the real stars of the show - the eclectic and inspired choice beers. From Ben's Brewery (Chorley) *Alright Treacle Toffee Stout*, to Little Critters (Sheffield) Vanilla Chinchilla, Flower Pots (Cheriton) *Deck Chair, Newt* (Musselburgh) *Thirsty Dog*, not to mention the Escapist Kegs supplied from Itchenor (*Testing One Two*, and *Rad Shirt Fridays*), the air itself in the main hall was fragrant with hops and fruity cider aromas.

Just as the beer was flowing freely, so the customary Vintners - Bush Vines - offered their excellent annual choice of wines. In meeting this couple every year, I always gain some interesting new insight regarding the cultivation of grapes around the world. My attention was caught by *First Sighting* – a wine made in the most southerly point of the Africa Continent – Agulhas. Set 60 miles east from the Cape of Good Hope, the area separates the Atlantic and Indian Ocean. Strange weather patterns occur producing wet and windy conditions. This wine is described as more French or European in style and full of flavour. Also highly recommended was the Sumarroca vintage 2022 Reserva with another small family run business producing this exceptional Cava.

Meanwhile the festival once again provided great musical entertainment. On Friday evening the main event room lent itself to some Sea Shanties with plenty of the visitors taking part. On Saturday the Southampton Uke Jam literally rocked the festival both inside and out whilst Westbourne's own Top

the air itself in the main hall was fragrant with hops and fruity cider aromas

Burrito (from Westbourne Cafe) offered great street food on site.

In putting together this year's festival the organisers experienced more setbacks that can be listed. Thankfully, all obstacles were overcome and the event was an outright, buzzing success. Mark, who runs WEMSFEST, even continued to hold the price of admission to £12.50 which offered incredible value in a time of economic squeeze.

The joy that this event brings to the town is tangible and all thanks to Mark and his hard working team for this wonderful community event.

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Round Up

The Friends of Emsworth Community Health

What makes a healthy community?

Words by Dr Theo Schofield OBE, Chairman, FECH

The Friends of Emsworth Community Health Alliance meet once a quarter to bring together those groups and agencies concerned with the health and wellbeing of the people of Emsworth. These include the Primary Care Network, other local agencies, our churches and schools, voluntary groups such as Emsworth Good Neighbours, the Community Centre and Sports and Social Club, and Emsworth Residents Forum. The Alliance is an opportunity to share issues and concerns, and plan to work together.

Our first priority is to publicise all the opportunities and activities that are already there, and Stuart Heartfield has developed a website, emsvalleyhealthdirectory.org with links to the websites of health related agencies. We plan to work together with Citizens Advice to develop and maintain this resource.

The Friends have also adopted the notice board on the wall beside the Coop in the High Street, and this will be used to publicise health related activities in Emsworth.

Emsworth has two thriving U3As, two sailing clubs, and many other special interest groups. One issue that had been identified by Bruce Watson from the Warblington with Emsworth Parish is the need for small meeting rooms for groups and activities, and they are working to adapt to meet this need. The Sports and Social Club have also developed a Community Hub for meetings and activities.

However, despite these positive developments a number of health and wellbeing concerns remain. The first is the number of older people living with dementia who are not receiving much support. Some are known to their practice and are in contact with their social prescribers, but the figures suggest that many are not. Duncan Cameron, the owner of the care company Right at Home, and a trustee of FECH, has set up the Singing for the Mind group which meets on the last Wednesday of every month 11 am-12 pm in the Pastoral Centre. He has also set up Dementia Friendly Gardening in the Community Centre at 3 pm on the first Thursday of each month. They are well attended and fun, but are not able to offer any individual advice and support.

Dementia Friendly Emsworth has been working with Sage House, the well-resourced charity based in Tangmere, to engage them in Emsworth. Their Wayfinding bus has visited Emsworth twice, and they are looking to set up an outreach group here if possible.

Other issues that were raised at the Alliance included the 200+ households using the Emsworth food bank at One Church, indicating significant deprivation.

There is also a need for more activities for younger people. There is a well-attended youth club at One Church, four days of sports activities organised by the ERF in the summer, and the successful Emsworth Youth Football Club. Concerns were also raised about the difficulties some children were having when starting in their primary schools, and the possible need for some sort of 'Sure Start' provision.

V Garlev

A Mixed Year at Emsworth Cricket Club but good times ahead

Words by Howard Fountain, Chair

As the temperatures finally start to fall, the leaves turn their gorgeous shades and drift around in the breeze, one season draws to a close but is immediately followed by works and plans for the following year. Autumn renovations have been completed, dates set for AGMs and enquiries made about winter nets. It is also time to reflect on the season past and have designs on the future.

2025 proved to be a difficult year on the field for its senior teams but in other areas there were many successes. Both men's Saturday teams were relegated and will start next season in Div 4 and 6. Despite several fine individual performances and many close games, too often Emsworth found themselves on the wrong end of results. Both the midweek team and indoor team held mid-table positions while the Sunday team continued to play its round of friendly fixtures.

The junior section continues to go from strength to strength with over 40 fixtures being played across 5 teams. Again, there were several outstanding performers but, essentially, whatever the results, the children came back again and again, some playing twice a week, with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the game we all enjoy so much.

Through the early part of the summer, 70 All-Stars and Dynamos turned out on Saturday mornings for their introduction into the world of cricket. This has increased from 20+ in 2022 and demonstrates the growth in this area of the game. Huge thanks must go to Nick Webb who drives this part of the club so well, ably supported by an enthusiastic group of coaches and assistants, several of whom have come through the junior ranks themselves. It's a credit to the club that there is an immense sense of belonging amongst these younger members and the continuity that it creates.

Our newest sections also continue to make progress. In their second season, the ladies played several fixtures and also in festivals. They did win some games but the biggest area of progress was in their individual skill levels. From nervous novices, they are emerging as more confident cricketers who are now casually using language such as yorkers, googlies, off drives and pulls! Numbers have grown so the team can play most weeks and are already making plans for next season both on and off the field.

The Walking Cricket group continues to meet most Fridays. This has given the opportunity for older - and not so old - lapsed cricket players to enjoy an hour of cricketing fun and banter in a very relaxed atmosphere followed by some more social interaction and a much needed debrief in a local hostelry.

The next major stage in the club's development is the completion of phase one of the refurbishment of the pavilion. This will be completed in time for the new season and provide modern changing and showering facilities supported by a new boiler system. The club will then set about completing the remainder of the social areas as soon as funds become available. If any local businesses or builders are interested in helping the club with this, either through sponsorship or providing essential services, please do get in touch.

Looking ahead, like all organisations, the natural cycle of life means that we are always on the lookout for new members to either join teams or help behind the scenes, volunteering to assist with coaching, groundwork, scoring, umpiring or simply enjoying the pleasures of watching our great game. If you are new to the area or find yourself interested in helping out in some way or other, please do get in touch. Contact nick.webb21@yahoo.com for further information. You are guaranteed a warm welcome.

Emsworth Art Group Autumn Exhibition 1 & 2 November 2025

The group is now making early preparations for their Autumn Exhibition which will be held in Lumley Room, Emsworth Community Centre (behind the fire station). This is always very popular with the public and members. A variety of original art work will be on display and for sale produced by members in a variety of styles and medium. Entry is free and children and dogs are welcome.

The group meet every Wednesday morning throughout the year to paint in the medium of their choice, socialise and exchange ideas during the tea break. There are frequent workshops where members will impart their knowledge and experience to others and occasional professional workshops. At present there is a short waiting list to join, but anyone interested should contact the secretary, Trevor Smith: atrevorsmith@gmail.com

The Exhibition Committee - Sarah Lipscombe, Robyn Chene, Lois Harvey, Nigel Glossop

Emsworth Art Group are continuing to hold their meetings in the Baptist Church after the fire at the Community Centre. They find the venue very convenient with good facilities. They are hoping to move back to a repaired Assembly Room at the Community Centre when it re-opens next year

Business Updates

New Local Business: Harbour Outboards

A new specialist service has launched at Thornham Marina, offering expert outboard motor servicing and repairs. Harbour Outboards, founded by local engineer Aaron Todd, is now open for business and operating across Chichester Harbour.

Aaron is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer with over 25 years' experience in the sector, bringing his expertise and practical skills to local boat owners looking for trusted, professional outboard motor maintenance and repairs. Whether it's routine upkeep or diagnosing more complex issues, Aaron is known for his honest, knowledgeable, and thorough approach.

For more information or to book a service, contact:

Tel: 07970494734

Email: harbour.outboards@gmail.com

Website: https://www.harbouroutboards.co.uk

Editor: If you have started a new business then please send a brief article and photo to The Ems. There is no charge for this service

Emsworth Gym

A new business, Emsworth Gym has opened at 2 Havant Road, Emsworth in premises formally known as Fiscal House. The building had been empty for some time and there had been several planning applications relating to converting it to housing. The gym is open from 5 am – 10 pm, Monday to Sunday. Membership, which offers unlimited use of the gym, is from £30 - £40 a month.

https://emsworthgym.co.uk/

Vacant business premises

• Unit 24, Palmers Road industrial estate is being offered for sale at £420,000. This is a 2,534 sq ft workshop and yard which has previously been used for car repairs. (Holloway Iliffe) Listed now as 'Under Offer'

• 7 High St (formerly PO10 gift shop) is being offered for rent at £10.000 pa. The 423 sq ft shop is marketed by Holloway Iliffe and is listed as 'Under Offer'

• 57 High St (Old Pharmacy) which closed in April is not currently being marketed.

• 6 Queen St, (formerly Vin Wine Merchants) is being offered for sale by Borland & Borland for £350,000. The 2 bedroom, 634 sq ft house is being marketed for residential use.

• Co-Working, 23 High St, Emsworth are offering desk space and small one person offices from £300 per month. https://cowork-ing-emsworth.co.uk

Banks to close

Lloyds Banking Group have announced that Lloyds Bank, Havant will close on 19 January 2026 and Halifax, Havant will close on 15 January 2026.

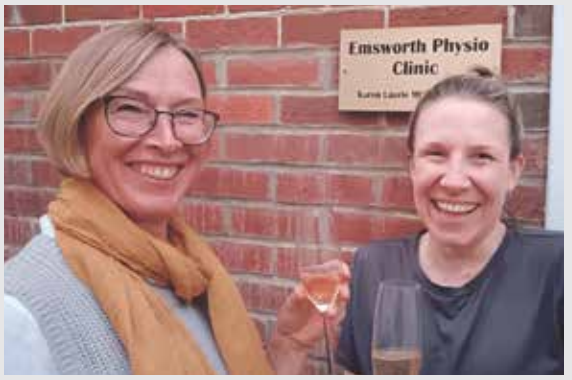
Local papers continue to decline in sales

The average daily sales of the Portsmouth News in 2025 has slumped to 4,518, down 17% from 2024. Local daily papers across the UK have seen sales fall from between 8% to 40% over the last year.

Farmers' Market

The market is held on the third Saturday of each month from 9 am to 1 pm in the Square. The dates for the next few months are: 18 Oct, 15 Nov and 20 Dec.

Emsworth Physio Clinic Expands: A New Chapter for Local Healthcare



After more than 25 years of dedicated service to the Emsworth community, Karen Laurie, founder of Emsworth Physio Clinic, is celebrating an exciting new chapter. The clinic has officially expanded to two locations, thanks to a dynamic new partnership with fellow physiotherapist Sarah Waters. Karen, a well-known figure in local healthcare, has built a reputation for compassionate, expert care since opening the clinic's doors over two decades ago. Her decision to join forces with Sarah Waters marks a significant milestone — not just for the clinic, but for the growing demand for accessible physiotherapy in the area.

Sarah is now working full-time from Bourne Leisure Centre in Southbourne, while Karen continues to treat patients from her new base at North Street Dental Practice in Emsworth. Both sites offer ground-floor access, ensuring ease of entry for all patients. Bourne Leisure Centre also boasts a large car park, making visits especially convenient for those coming from further afield.

For patients experiencing pain or mobility issues that prevent them from attending clinic in person, home visits are available — bringing expert care directly to those who need it most.

This expansion reflects the clinic's commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the community, offering greater flexibility and accessibility without compromising the personal touch that has defined its care for decades.

Whether recovering from injury, managing chronic pain, or seeking preventative treatment, patients in Emsworth and Southbourne now have two welcoming doors to walk through — and two expert hands to guide them back to health.

For appointments or more information, visit www.emsworthphysio.co.uk, where online booking is also available, or call 07941 213488.

Facts and figures

J Abramova

Teenage pregnancy conception rates (per 1000)

Havant 18.9

Portsmouth 23.5

Gosport 28.8

Fareham 8.1

Chichester 10.6

England & Wales ave 19.8

Local NHS Health Trusts near the bottom of the table

A newly published league table has ranked all 134 NHS hospital trusts in order of merit. Portsmouth NHS Trust was 104th and University Hospital Sussex was ranked 117th.

Unemployment figures

Borough of Havant 3.6%

Emsworth 2.1%

Chichester DC area 3.2%

UK 4.0%

Inflation rate

The official consumer price inflation rate as calculated by ONS is 4.1%

In Feb 2021 it stood at 0.4%. www.ons.gov.uk

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Arts & Entertainment

By Russell Bramley, Arts Correspondent
Email: russatemsart@gmail.com

Westbourne Community Hall

Ashley Campbell
Ashley, the daughter of the late great Glen Campbell, is due to play at Westbourne Community Hall. There Is no guarantee that being the child of an all-time great performing artist, you can pursue a career along the same line. The youngest of Glen's eight children, Ashley accompanied him on his farewell tour in 2011 playing banjo. Regardless of her late father's reputation she is in her own right a recognised and accomplished singer-song-writer who also plays guitar and piano. Her country music background has seen her perform worldwide and at the most renowned festivals. Having listened to some of her music all reports and reviews present as accurate.

Thursday 13 November; doors open 7.30 pm; show starts 8 pm. River Street Westbourne PO10 8TG – 01243 374578

Ashley Campbell

Daytime Disco
This is a genius idea. For all of us who queued to get into Nero's and Joanna's on Southsea seafront and who crawled home at 3 am, this is an opportunity (if your will and your joints allow) to drift back to those days and prove to yourself you still have it. The least that can happen is being around people having fun and singing out to the classic disco hits. What a great way to spend an afternoon.

Westbourne Community Hall - all details on their Facebook page.

R Valetova

New Theatre Royal

Ben Hart, magician
Weds 29 October 2025 - 19:30
I always marvelled some years back at the 'magician' Derren Brown whose TV spectaculars had me thinking 'How?' I've never seen this type of performance and with age the sceptic in me says 'Why?' But being a lover of this fine old theatre I will silence my sceptical shoulder tap and see for myself a performer who has appeared in the final of Britain's Got Talent and was in 2007 awarded Young Magician of the Year.' I read that 'Ben Hart brings together enthralling storytelling, sharp wit and indisputable charm, to create magic shows that are unforgettable, funny, dark and profoundly baffling. This time, it's not just magic—it's real.' Always open to something new I'll see for myself ... or will I?

20-24 Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth, PO1 2DD; Box Office 023 9264 9000

Emsworth Community Centre Cinema – Films for £5

The Ballad of Wallis Island
An estranged couple and once folk music duo find themselves on a remote Scottish island to perform for one man, an eccentric millionaire who brings them together again and in doing so reopens their old wounds and still strong feelings. As one reviewer says, it is 'a heart-warming, emotionally stirring, and amiably amusing piece with wonderful acting, understated storytelling, and a marvellous balance between comedy and pathos.' With the wonderful Carey Mulligan and Tom Basden how can it be anything other than the perfect film for my debut at the cinema club.

'a marvellous balance between comedy and pathos'

For someone who loves film and cinema I ask myself why I haven't ever been here before to watch a current film. I watched the trailer for this one and found myself smiling and laughing.

Monday 27 October with showings at 3.30 and 7.30 pm
For details of this and all films visit www.emsworth-communitycentre.org.uk
01243373805 -
North Street
Emsworth PO107DD

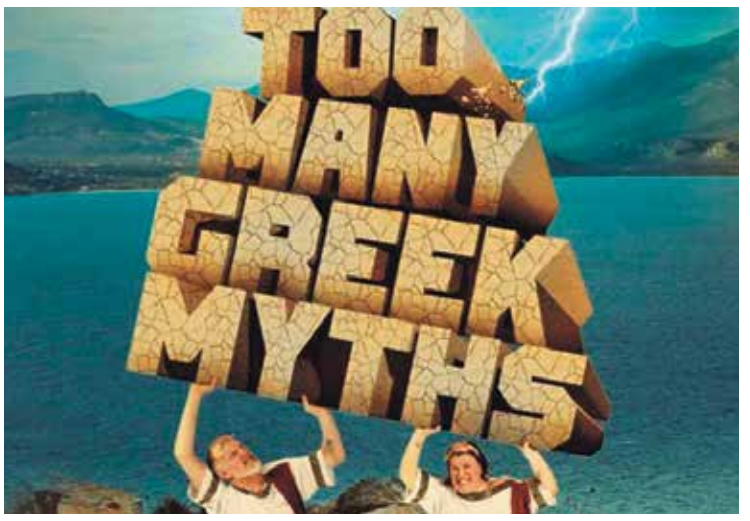
The Spring

Discovering Antarctica: Heroic Tales of Shackleton, Crean & Scott
Saturday 8 November 2025 8pm; tickets £15 - running time: 90 minutes (no interval)

Having seen two exceptional solo performances at The Spring, another due soon is a much anticipated performance by Aidan Dooley telling the tale of Tom Crean, the intrepid Antarctic explorer. Set during The Golden Age of Antarctic Exploration (1901-1916), we will hear tales of his having served alongside Scott and Shackleton in three of the most daring and challenging expeditions to the great white continent, including Shackleton's ill-fated Endurance expedition. This multi award winning global tour seen by a quarter of a million people has been described as captivating and jaw dropping.

Too Many Greek Myths **Presented by Living Spit**

I confess Havant Arts centre The Spring is one of my favourite intimate venues and taking my own advice I recently saw the brilliant *Stepping Out* and *War of the Worlds*. With a vast variety on offer I'm plumping for something that promises comic mayhem. As the publicity tells us: 'When two members of Clevedon-based comedy theatre company, Living Spit, are overhead bragging about how good they are, Zeus, enraged by their hubris, decides to teach them a lesson. His punishment? A Herculean challenge: to squeeze twenty of the greatest Ancient Greek myths into one chaotic, side-splitting show. We are promised hare-brained humour, questionable wigs and a total disregard for historical accuracy and a warning that it may contain togas, ridiculous puns and possibly an overworked Trojan Horse.'



Tue 21 October & Wed 22 Oct, 7:30pm; tickets £16; running time 70 minutes.

For booking details visit the Spring, 023 9247 2700 or see https://www.thespring.co.uk/visit-us/booking-information

The Pallant Centre

Fund raising event
During the Covid lockdown a group of us kept in touch with a weekly zoom quiz. I love that you can't help but find yourself desperately huddled whispering amid growing desire to win. Maybe that's just me, but a fun quiz manages not just to stir the grey cells but also put you in a social setting with like-minded folk. They are always a good night out. This fundraising quiz with homemade curry (meat and vegan option) included in the price looks irresistible. I'm off to try and think of a quiz team name.

Saturday 8 November; doors open 7:00.
Quiz starts 7:15
Tickets £12.50 Early bird, Standard £15.00 (includes a curry)
The Pallant Centre - Saint Faith's, Havant PO9 1BE – call the centre on 07743 762195 Mon-Wed.

S Secci

By Russell Bramley, Arts Correspondent
Email: russatemsart@gmail.com

Arts & Entertainment

Another International Season for WemsFest

Now in its 15th year the voluntary arts organisation WemsFest is continuing to present top-class music from all around the world.

Their autumn season began in early September and features musicians from Italy, Cuba, Finland, Spain, the Caribbean, and the British Isles.

In Emsworth St. James' Church hosts Fairport Convention (24 Oct), 7-piece Finnish band Frigg (31 Oct), and Anglo-Irish folk group Flook (26 Nov). Chidham Village Hall – affectionately known as The Old Malthouse – hosts UK guitarists Gordon Giltrap & John Etheridge (11 Oct), Spanish group El Pony Pisador (3 Nov - already sold-out), and Irish folk group The Jeremiahs (6 Dec). Westbourne Community Hall is being used for concerts by Cuban band Asere, country music icon Glen Campbell's daughter Ashley Campbell with her band (Nov 14), award winning Anglo-Irish group Ranagri, and Anglo-Caribbean band Maroon Town (Dec 12). Havana Bar in Chichester is being used to present matinee performances by former Medicine Head musician John Fiddler (Oct 19), and one-time punk pioneer Wreckless Eric (Nov 23).

Looking ahead to 2026, the 4th Emsworth Blues Festival takes place on 16 & 17 January with ticketed performances by Michael & Sadie Roach, and Lucca Mae with her band (16 Jan), and The Errol Linton Band (17 Jan) with free performances on Saturday afternoon in The Coal Exchange, The Crown Inn, and Queenie's Vintage Tearoom.

In 2026 WemsFest plans to audit how much these events contribute to the economy of the Emsworth area and cites accommodation and hospitality for performers as being major sources of income together with the spending of their audiences.

As always tickets are available from Bookends, and Harbour Records in Emsworth, and a new outlet The Westbourne Café.

Fairport Convention

Hayling Island Community Centre

Langstone Big Band
Music that prompts immediate nostalgia is the format of Langstone Big Band who will be celebrating their 40th anniversary at Hayling Island Community Centre on 7 November.

This 16 piece band has amongst its number the talented saxophonist Alan Lockhart who, aged 95, was there at the band's inception. Alan, born in 1930, will hold much clearer memories of the years that saw this fabulous sound evolve and aside from his skilled musicianship is another example of my ongoing reference to 'social interaction' and how it supports that feeling of involvement and wellbeing.

The band play regularly in our area and have previously played at Emsworth Social Club and will again soon (keep an eye out for details) but for now sit back, relax and reflect on a golden age of music. Join Alan who, along with his very accomplished fellow musicians, will surely provide an evening that will see you smile on the drive home.

Full details and booking information go to - enquiries@hicca.co.uk - 02392 467545

Can you help deliver The Ems?

The ERF is always looking for help to deliver The Ems.

If you are interested, please contact: jandgmil@btinternet.com

Emsworth Concert Band

Please come and join us for another evening of festive fun and beautiful music led by Andy Hall (Bandmaster of The Royal Corps of Army Music, Tidworth, and formerly with the Band of the Royal Marines).

Two dates, two venues – pick the one that suits you best. Click and buy using the links below.

Saturday 13 December – 7:30pm
Oaklands School, Waterlooville
A beautiful venue with tiered seating for a perfect view.

Includes a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink during the interval

Free parking available (within school grounds)

Tickets: £13.50 if booked before 1 Dec / £15 after 1 Dec

Buy tickets online here https://ECBChristmasConcert2025.eventbrite.co.uk

Saturday 20 December – 7:30pm
Hayling Island Community Centre
A welcoming venue with great acoustics

Licensed bar open before the concert and during the interval

Free parking available (car park and on-street)

Tickets: £12

Buy tickets online here https://EmsworthConcertBandHICCDec2025.eventbrite.co.uk

For more info: Rich Taylor 07881 811619

Emsworth Concert Band

Student View

Dear Graduation,

Words by Scarlet Davies

So I have a few questions. I've barely got nine months until university finishes, and I still haven't sorted out whether I'll be moving back home or trying to pay rent next year. It's a bit difficult to decide when I have no idea in which job I'll be working in half a year's time - if I find a job at all. There's no use finding a flat to rent in Newcastle if I get hired in Southampton.

Being able to drink myself stupid and not having to get up for a 9-5 the next day has been something I've taken for granted. Can we just rewind back to my first year? The dissertation I've got to complete is looking a bit too serious. I guess there's a reason why so many people ruminate over their old uni days, but I don't want this year to be the last time I can have fun with no consequences. Watching the Freshers wander around the city with no real concept of how much they have ahead of them has never made me feel so old.

Speaking of which, there's this whole ordeal of 'settling down' that everyone keeps talking about. What age is it that I'm supposed to have everything together again? It used to be about 23, but now it seems to be more like 30. Do I still have room to switch a few jobs and rent a few flats with people I'll end up falling out with, or is it time to settle a down payment? Education is a great way to landmark progress, until you have to find employment and everything gets a lot blurrier. If there's not a 'right' age for anything anymore, how am I supposed to know my next step?

So, if I actually graduate with a decent degree, is my life set out for me? As a fresher, I'd assumed that by this point, I'd sort of know what I was doing. I'm starting to wonder when that's going to click, or if I'll spend the next ten years wondering what I'm supposed to be doing. Just let me spend a bit more money on Jägerbombs before I have to worry about buying my own furniture.

Yours sincerely, A Third Year.

Speaking of which, there's this whole ordeal of 'settling down' that everyone keeps talking about. How am I supposed to know my next step?

J Bentzinger

Hivvebox

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Lift Off Emsworth

Words by Steve Williams, Deputy Head Teacher, Bishop Luffa School and Ella Capaldi, Head of School, Park Community School

The eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed the new name on the site's hoardings for this school faculty. *Lift Off* Emsworth reflects the broad range of teaching and innovative activities to take place there.

This initiative has been wholly funded by the John & Hilary Pritchard Trust whose trustees are committed to helping children and young people to unlock their full potential regardless of their circumstances. They do this by working with educationalists and counsellors to pump-prime, pilot and initiate projects which will transform young lives.

Following planning approval from Havant Borough Council, construction activity on site has significantly accelerated, bringing both visible progress and tightening timelines. The main building is approaching completion, with internal painting and decorating now well underway. Adjacent to this, the Real World Learning facility has been constructed up to eaves level, where the quality of the brickwork is already evident - designed to complement the architectural character and context of the site.

To the rear, foundations for the pods have been laid, and work on the superstructure is imminent. These elements will provide flexible learning and community spaces, further enriching the educational offer.

This is a pivotal and energising phase in the build. Spatial definitions are emerging, allowing stakeholders to better visualise how the completed site will function and the opportunities it will unlock for students and the wider Emsworth community. While considerable work remains, the momentum on site is strong, and the team is focused on delivering within the increasingly compressed timeframe.

In July, the senior teams at Park Community and Bishop Luffa Schools announced a brand-new opportunity: the Lead Role for *Lift Off*. Since advertising the position, the project has attracted plenty of interest, with calls and enquiries coming in over August from people keen to get involved. The schools plan to appoint someone in the Autumn, who will then work with school leaders to bring together a team to deliver the curriculum and wider activities at the centre.

Both schools have been heartened by the warm response from the community. Local residents have already shared thoughtful suggestions on how students and staff can play a fuller part in the life of the town, a positive sign of the strong community spirit behind the project.

In the months ahead, attention will turn to developing the programmes that will form the core curriculum at *Lift Off* Emsworth. These will be in place ready to welcome students when the school faculty officially opens in January 2026.

Young People Activities

Summer Activities

Lots of fun was had by young people in the recreation ground on four Wednesdays in August. Activities included dodgeball, pickleball, non-contact boxing and more. This was a new activity and lessons were learnt that will help to shape the programme which we hope to run next year. The most important views come from young people and this is a sample of them:

'Coming here was the best part of my summer!'

'It was really fun! The coaches are slay!'

'Will explained all the activities really clearly. It was great fun.'

'All the activities were fun. I hope I can do it again next summer. '

'I would do this every holiday if it was running!'

'Loads of fun'

'I love dodgeball.'

The days were run by Horizon Leisure supported by Emsworth Residents Forum. Michael Whitelock from Horizon said, 'I feel it was a success for something so new to the young people ':

The events were sponsored by FECH who gave a very generous grant.

Silent Disco 31 October 2025

The Community Centre will be turned into a scary venue ready for the spooktacular Halloween Silent Disco.

If you are aged 11-16 just turn up - no need to book. You do not have to but you can come in a scary outfit which will make it more fun. Cost just £5. There will be a tuck shop. For more information contact Youth.erf@gmail.com.

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Lindsay's Nature Notes

The Law on Hedge Cutting

Words and photographs by Lindsay Jerome

Now is the time to cut/prune your hedges and, indeed, trees or large shrubs - anywhere where birds might nest come the Spring - and you have six months from 1 September to the end of February to do so. This is enshrined in law which it appears some people do not know.

Blue tits in Robins birdbath

Recent interpretations of the law have placed increased emphasis on environmental protection and biodiversity preservation, reflecting growing concerns about wildlife habitat preservation. But the main law pertaining to hedge cutting is the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (Domestic Areas). This act protects wild birds by making it an offence to intentionally take, damage, or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. Hedge cutting is restricted in the main nesting and breeding season from 1 March to 31 August. Exceptions can be made if hedge trimming is essential for safety, to prevent obstruction, or to maintain access, and the RSPB advise using hand tools in this instance during this period. Before any hedge maintenance, it is crucial to check thoroughly for nesting birds. So, you all know the law now and hopefully birds' nests will be safe from hedge trimming between 1 March and 31 August every year.

A traumatic event in my garden came in August when the female Sparrowhawk, who had been occasionally visiting to snatch one of the House Sparrow brood fledged from my Bird Brick House in the back wall of my home, upped her game. She came repeatedly, twice in one day once. I foiled her once and she glared at me from my garden table, but she decimated my Sparrow family and then they were gone! I know birds moult and hide away but my House Sparrows have a huge Hebe shrub they hide in plus the Bird Brick House in the wall they can escape to, and I still haven't seen any in my garden.

I foiled a male Sparrowhawk at Staunton Country Park on hearing a flurry of wings and chirping - he was chasing a fledgling Robin - and he sat in a tall tree and glared down at me. They don't seem to be good losers! The last Sparrowhawk in my garden was a male one, smaller than the female and with a grey/blue back while the female is brown; the male with reddish-brown/white barring on tummy and the female with grey/white stripes. So, now I have both of them who know my garden layout - oh dear! I wonder if the House Sparrows will return. Luckily, I have another Bird Brick House in my front wall which another Sparrow family breed in, so I do (well, they do!) produce 18 new Sparrows each year between them.

> Good news now as Blue Tits took up the bespoke birdhouse that my partner made for them with an all-exclusive entrance hole that no Sparrow can enter by....

The next trauma to hit my garden was after a lovingly-made hedgehog house had been taken up by a female hedgehog and I was looking forward to hoglets, she was run over on our road.

Good news now as Blue Tits took up the bespoke birdhouse that my partner made for them with an all-exclusive entrance hole that no Sparrow can enter by (as the Sparrows did steal the Bird Brick House from Blue Tits). They successfully had a brood which, unfortunately, I didn't see fledge being away at the time but my friend (watering my plants for me) did see fluffy little bundles and enjoyed it very much.

I have seen lots of butterflies - Comma, Red Admiral, Peacock, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, lots of Large Whites, and my yearly meeting with the tiny, beautiful Mint Moth - see my photo of it. It is quite happy to fly up to me and around me so I like to think my friendship is passed down in its genes to the next generation, as it can't be the same one year after year!

I get dragonflies in my garden and a huge Emperor Dragonfly was flying up and down it this summer. I tried to get closer to take a photo and it flew by me and in through my French doors, through to the next room, turned about and out again! One year I had a host of blue and red Damselflies mating and laying eggs on the plants in my pond. I never did see if they hatched out and haven't seen the phenomenon since, but hope it's happening when I'm not looking!

As ever, please leave your gardens a bit messy, fallen leaves providing home for insects and earthworms for birds and hedgehogs to eat, and don't prune back too hard as seedheads provide food for birds and they need the cover/safe haven of big shrubs to roost and avoid predators.

Embrace and enjoy the wildlife in your gardens and on balconies too.

A white-tailed honeybee on the flower of a Hebe

An Ivy honeybee flies off after feeding by a Comma butterfly

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Part 27: Chidham Exploration

Words by Lupo, photographs by Juliet Walker

This was a walk of many twists and turns, of countryside and shoreline, fields and footpaths, church and pub, thunder and lightning. There was plenty of variety and lots to keep we three dogs on our toes – and all just beyond Emsworth. The weather had been too hot for an expedition recently, but today was just right; cooler and cloudy.

We started in a lane at Nutbourne Farm by taking a path leading down to the coast. The sea was not at home that morning, but we met dogs and people and exchanged sniffs and pleasantries. For once we weren't tempted to venture into the mud, for we wanted to begin our Chidham exploration, which was to involve criss-crossing the peninsula. Callie's method was to go on a series of spontaneous runs. I – of course – followed though I had no idea why or where we were running. I just know she is always the source of fun and action.

We left the west shore and made our way all the way across to the east one, mostly on quiet footpaths, but spotting a fellow black dog helping out with farming from the front seat of a tractor. We stopped for a while at a stretch of water called The Catchpond. This was not a place to swim or catch balls, because it was for ducks. Sometimes we know our place.

When we got to the shore we were looking across to Bosham village green – a doggy place we have visited. The path – single file all the way – led above the beach and was fringed with tall grasses, parting occasionally to reveal tempting sights, but we obediently stayed on the straight and narrow till our way opened up at a finger post, one way pointing into a field. A pub lunch beckoned, so that made our decision to head inland easy. With more of a spring in our paws we skirted a carpark and almost immediately turned left into a wooded path which surprisingly opened into a mown field, before turning down a steep track with high banks and enticing scents that sent Callie and me racing off again.

We soon arrived at a lane and since we were opposite a church we naturally trooped in, as we often do on our walks. At the same time two people holding clipboards arrived. They were checking if things were all right in there and we gave them no cause to worry about that, because we know when to be very well behaved dogs. We didn't stay long and walked the short distance to The Old House at Home. This is a very welcoming and dog friendly pub and we chose to sit in the back garden. We were pleased to have a biscuit and then settle down under the table, while the humans enjoyed their fishy treats above it.

When we left we took the lane up to a woodland area called Maybush Copse. It had grassy clearings and I expect my owner was relieved that it was not a rabbity time of day, for there was a lot of potential there, but our attention was distracted by low rumbles coming from the sky. We were encouraged to move faster when we got into open fields though there still had to be posing for photographs on a bench by the sea, which had now come back. Then, with the company of flashes and bangs, we headed smartly up to Nutbourne, arriving back at the car at just the same time as the heavy rain. Phew!

The path – single file all the way – led above the beach and was fringed with tall grasses, parting occasionally to reveal tempting sights

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Emsworth Community Centre

Update on the repairs and restoration to the Community Centre after the roof fire

The repairs to the Assembly Rooms after the fire have been halted due to paperwork and other hurdles. We were supposed to commence repairs on 24 July, however, after more assessments and reports, we were informed that we could commence on 15 Sept. This will unfortunately put us back a few weeks and the approximate handover is now moved to March 2026.

Regular Activities are all still available. Pop into the centre office and ask for a What's On leaflet or check out our website to see all the activities including all the details on how to contact the hosts and more information. If you fancy starting a new activity or want to extend an existing one, there is always room for more. Room hire starts at a great low price. We also have a selection of rooms to rent, with various sizes, prices and times, to include mornings, afternoons, evenings and weekends. Kitchen and café facilities are also available to rent.

Book your Christmas party with kitchen facilities

Checkout our newly redecorated Lumley room/dance studio with acoustic panels to reduce sound echo. For more information or to book an appointment to view the venue please contact us on the details below.

Check the website www.emsworthcommunitycentre

email on Info@emsworthcommunitycentre.org.uk or call us on 01243 373805 10:00 -14:00.

We are located behind the Fire Station on North Street, through the public car park into Emsworth Community Centre's private carpark.

Visiting the library or meeting up with friends

The Galley Café is a great place to meet. Open on Tuesday and Friday morning 10-12. It is a great little space and is open to all the community.

Dementia friendly Gardening is on first Thursday of the month 3-4 pm.

MacMillan Coffee Morning 14 Oct Starts from 10:00am

Free entry and everyone is welcome. If anyone fancies baking a cake please do. All proceeds will go to MacMillan Cancer Research.

Tech Aid is back

Any small job required for your technical devices can be sorted by our wonderful tech team. Come and find us in the Galley Café, every Wednesday 11-12.

Christmas Gift Fair 20 Dec

This will be a good chance to purchase those last-minute gifts. There will be many tables and many varieties of homemade gifts including jewellery, chocolate, cakes, and cards for that special person in your life.

The Centre Cinema, Films for a Fiver

The Penguin Lessons 13 Oct, PG-13 Drama.

A disillusioned Englishman who goes to work in a school in a divided Argentina in 1976 finds his life transformed when he rescues an orphaned penguin from the beach.

The Ballard of Wallis Island 27 Oct Comedy/Drama/Music

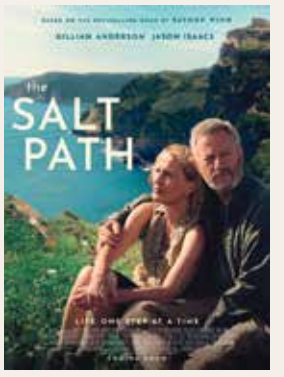
An eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island tries to make his fantasies come true by getting his favourite musicians to perform at his home.

Four Letters of Love 10 Nov

Based on Niall Williams' best-selling novel. Nicholas and Isabel were made for each other but how will they ever know it? As ghosts, fate and the sheer power of true love pull them together, so too does life threaten to tear them apart.

The Friend 24 Nov

When a solitary writer adopts and bonds with a Great Dane that belonged to a late friend, she begins to come to terms with her past and her own creative inner life.



The Salt Path 8 Dec

A couple lose their home and later discover the husband has been diagnosed with a terminal illness as they embark on a yearlong coastal trek.

Our Community Cinema is at the heart of our social activity programme. Showings are 3:30 and 7:30 always on a Monday but not regular set dates, so check out our website for all information, including trailers, times, and dates.

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Physio-led Yoga

Yoga is for everyone.
In Physio-led Yoga, poses can be adapted to accommodate individual needs.
Beginner/Intermediate classes at 9:30am every Tuesday at Emsworth Community Centre (term time only)
All class members will be assessed.
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Maximum of 8 people in class

Please contact: **Melissa Robinson** (Chartered Physiotherapist)
melissa.robinson@astilbe.co.uk
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Havant Camera Club

Words by Carrie Davidson

Havant Camera Club is a friendly club for people of all ages and skill levels. This is a club for people who have a love of photography, whether that's with your smart phone, the latest camera or you just enjoy looking at other people's images.

The new season for Havant Camera Club commenced on 9 September. The first evening enabled existing members to greet potential new members and to share images captured during the summer.

The Inaugural Challenge Trophy
This was a new exciting competition for members to showcase images they had taken during the summer outings. Locations during the outings included Portsmouth Old Town, a Seal Safari around Chichester Harbour and Hill Head Beach. The images were voted for by members themselves and demonstrated the variety and genres of photography that members enjoy.

The winner of The Challenge Cup was Alistair Blair with his captivating image of a seal. Second place went to Dave Young demonstrating long exposure photography. Runners up were Ron De'Ath with an abstract flower image and Eric Clark showing a different viewpoint of Portsmouth Old Town.

There then followed an opportunity for members to demonstrate images or projects that they had been undertaking over the summer. The subjects and scope were varying, with stunning macro photography of insects, landscapes, wildlife and local scenes.

New Season Programme
The programme consists of a combination of talks by external speakers, competitions and members' evenings. Notable talks in October and November include 14 October, Pete Whieldon - *Cold Weather Photography*; 18 November, Andy Skillen - *Tales from the Bush* and 2 December, Ric Gillams - *A Year in Japan*. A members' evening on 28 October will provide talks and demonstrations including long exposure photography and how to present and showcase your Images.

Groynes, Long Exposure - Dave Young

Behind Bars - Eric Clark

Extraordinary Agapanthus - Ron De'Ath

New Members
The club meets every Tuesday at Emsworth Community Centre starting at 7.30 pm and new members are welcome throughout the year. Havant Camera Club is the perfect place to learn, grow and share a love of photography. Full programme and further details can be found at www.havantcameraclub.co.uk. or just visit us on a Tuesday evening to see what we offer.

Yes, Another Seal!! - Alistair Blair

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News from our MP

Alan had a busy summer

I hope everyone had a good summer and you were able to spend some time with family and friends. I have continued to be active across Emsworth.

I held my latest Q&A public meeting at Emsworth Community Centre, where I fielded questions on local, national and international issues. Engaging with local residents is a top priority for me and that's why I hold Q&A public meetings all year round, both in Parliament as part of my constituents' tours and across the Havant Constituency.

For details of future Q&A public meetings, please sign up to my newsletter at www.AlanMak.org.uk/Newsletter.

I launched my 10th annual Small Business and Community Awards by visiting Roxie Tricker, who has realised a dream by opening the South Street Coffee Company in Emsworth. To nominate your favourite cafe, restaurant or shop, or recognise a community champion, please go to www.AlanMak.org.uk/Nominate

Over the summer I also saw first-hand how my campaign for better broadband is starting to deliver results in Emsworth. I joined engineers from CityFibre in the town centre to see high-speed full fibre broadband being rolled out. Construction began on CityFibre's £17m project (agreed by the previous Conservative Government) in 2022 and the new network has made our area one of the best-connected in the country.

Working with Emsworth residents I opposed new council car parking charges, which would have affected the Bridge Road

Alan Mak visiting Roxie Tricker and staff at the South Street Coffee Company in Emsworth

car park in Emsworth. I campaigned to get Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green-controlled Havant Borough Council's decision reversed and launched a petition. Now I am pleased to say HBC has put the charges on hold and is reviewing its plans.

In Parliament I voted against the Devolution Bill, which would see local and regional government reshuffled. I'm concerned that local people will lose their voice and that this unnecessary restructuring will be a waste of time and money.

Meanwhile the Labour Government's plan for local government re-organisation is likely to see Havant Borough Council abolished. If that happens, then there is an opportunity for an Emsworth Town Council to ensure local voices are still heard.

I'm also providing free Union and St George flags to residents. To request one, please go to www.AlanMak.org.uk/Contact.

The best ways to stay up to date with the work I'm doing as your local MP all year round are to follow my social media accounts, especially Facebook (www.fb.com/AlanMakHavant), and sign up for my regular residents' email newsletter at www.AlanMak.org.uk/Newsletter.

You can also share your views on local and national issues with me by completing my online survey at www.alanmak.org.uk/survey.

Alan Mak MP, Member of Parliament for the Havant Constituency

Y Zok

Emsworth residents are welcome to come on one of my popular Houses of Parliament tours. You can enjoy a guided tour before joining me for a private Q&A session.

The coach leaves the Havant area around 8.00am and returns around 5.30pm. The next available tour is Monday 3 November. Please register at www.AlanMak.org.uk/Tours.

ADVERTISEMENT

What does the future hold?

By Louise New

I will be honest, Artificial Intelligence (AI) scares me a little bit. That is probably a hypocritical view – I am more than happy to use it in my car or when I am developing a new initiative at school and can't quite find the right words. But, as a concept, it makes me very wary – maybe growing up watching films like *I, Robot* hasn't helped!

However, there is no doubting that AI is rapidly changing the landscape of education, offering new opportunities to enhance teaching and learning. In schools, AI is being used in a variety of ways to support students, teachers, and administrators. And, despite my fear, I must admit it is quite exciting.

I was sat in professional development just last week, where both Primary and Secondary teachers were exploring how AI can really enhance our ability to personalise learning. Platforms exist that can rapidly analyse pupil performance and help teachers to adapt their lessons more readily in response to this. AI is also streamlining administrative tasks in schools. And I don't celebrate this because it means less work for teachers - far from it; it means their time can be channelled more effectively into the actual teaching and supporting pupils in their care.

Of course, we need to tread carefully. AI cannot get in the way of human interaction, and human response to pupil needs. AI also raises concerns about privacy, data security, and the need for digital literacy. As AI becomes more integrated into education, all schools must ensure that ethical standards are in place. But, if we can get this right, even I have to admit that this might be an integral part of schools in the future, as long as it is implemented thoughtfully and responsibly.

E Vittoriosi

AI cannot get in the way of human interaction, and human response to pupil needs.

Editor: Louise is stepping down as Education Correspondent as she has a new job. If you would like to write education related articles for The Ems please contact me. Email; editor.theems@outlook.com

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Secondary School League Tables (State funded schools in England)

We have not been able to publish any secondary school league tables since 2020.

The tables below have been compiled by The Telegraph using data in the public domain. They used 10 separate criteria to produce their tables. The maximum possible score is 40/40 which only four schools in England obtained. The lowest possible score was 10/40 which was given to six schools.

To read about the methodology go to: www.telegraph.co.uk/education-and-careers/uk-secondary-school-rankings-gcse-maths-english/

Not a lot has changed since 2020. Bishop Luffa and Oaklands continue to be the highest achieving schools. Havant Academy, Park Community and Warblington remain at the bottom of the table.

Bishop Luffa School, Chichester

SCHOOL	SCORE	OVERALL GRADE
Bishop Luffa	31/40	Good
Bourne Community College	24/40	Fair
Chichester Free School	23/40	Fair
Chichester High	20/40	Below average
Cowplain	22/40	Fair
Crookhorn College	19/40	Below average
Havant Academy	14/40	Well below average
Hayling College	16/40	Well below average
Horndean Technology College	25/40	Fair
Oaklands RC School	30/40	Good
Park Community School	14/40	Well below average
Purbrook Park	21/40	Below average
Warblington	17/40	Well below average

News from Thorney School

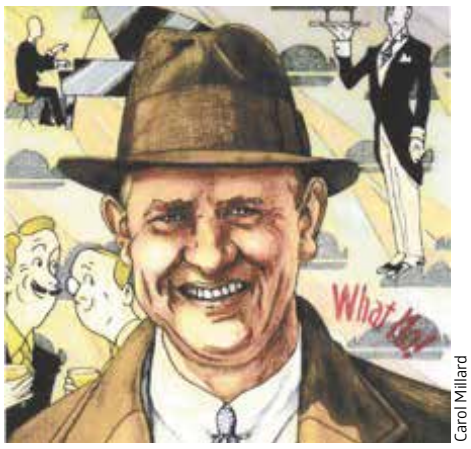
Dean Clegg Headteacher

The High Sheriff of West Sussex visited Thorney Island Community Primary School on Tuesday 23 September. The feedback from everyone was extremely positive. Dr Tim Fooks related very well to the children and his presentation in assembly explaining his role in supporting those who help us was perfect. (This is never an easy task when talking to very young children.) Many parents commented on the playground about how excited their children had been when they had got home and told them all about meeting him. They loved his outfit and ceremonial sword. Working with young children is always such a pleasure and for the High Sheriff to make time to visit the school was much appreciated.

The children loved the High Sheriff's outfit and ceremonial sword

Heritage

Proposed Statue of PG Wodehouse (1881 – 1975) in Emsworth



Carol Millard

Words by Richard Ommanney

Such is the importance of PG Wodehouse that he has a memorial stone in Westminster Abbey. However, unlike other great writers, there is no statue of him. A committee has been formed in the hope of having PG Wodehouse honoured with a statue in Emsworth. The town played a key part in his life and happiness for many years, and he made lasting friendships here. In due course an appeal will be launched for funds to finance the statue. It would be the work of the world-class sculptor Philip Jackson who has created many national monuments such as Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament Square.

Wodehouse rented a house called Threepwood in Record Road from 1904 to 1914. His love of Emsworth was such that it inspired the names of many of his characters, with Lord Emsworth as a prime example. Threepwood became the Emsworth's family name. Other characters inspired by the area include Lord Emsworth's heir, Viscount Bosham, Lady Warblington, Lord Stockheath, and Lord Hayling.

Most writers revere the incomparable literary skills of PG Wodehouse. Everyone from Evelyn Waugh to John Le Carré regarded him as the unequalled master of comic prose. His most famous creations, Jeeves and Wooster, are embedded in the lexicon of our culture. In the UK the PG Wodehouse Society, headed by Alexander Armstrong, has many famous literary members. The Wodehouse fanbase spans the globe, with thriving memberships in the USA, India, and elsewhere. Fans of Wodehouse making a pilgrimage to Emsworth would clearly be of great benefit to local businesses.

Wodehouse was born in 1881. He was educated at Dulwich College where he excelled in boxing and cricket. His first job was in a bank which bored him senseless because all he ever wanted to do was write. He resigned at the earliest opportunity, and within a few years would achieve spectacular success. During his long life he wrote more than ninety books, many plays, two hundred short stories, and garnered great acclaim as a lyricist for Broadway musicals in the 1920s, collaborating with, among others, Jerome Kern.

Fans of Wodehouse making a pilgrimage to Emsworth would clearly be of great benefit to local businesses.

In 1940, while living at Le Touquet in northern France, he was interned by the invading Germans for nearly a year. Before America had entered the war Wodehouse made a series of humorous and apolitical broadcasts from Germany to an American radio station. The broadcasts caused anger in war-torn Britain, and was the biggest mistake, and regret, of his life. In reality his only crime was naivety, and an irrepressible urge to entertain.

From 1947 until his death at the age of 93 he lived in America. One month before his death he was finally awarded a knighthood.

A statue would be a worthy tribute to a literary genius who once said that his only ambition in life was to bring joy.

OBITUARY

Alan Werge-Hartley (1931-2025) Artist and teacher

Alan passed away on the 7 July aged 94. He spent most of his adult life in Emsworth, moving first to Havant in the 1950s and to Emsworth in 1962 with his wife Jeanne and two daughters. Born in Headingly, Leeds and trained at Leeds College of Art, Alan was a prolific painter of seascapes, boats, clouds and buildings, a great many featuring Emsworth. He fell in love with the south coast for its sailing, first for the Dorien-Smith sisters to race *Ivy*, their Solent Sunbeam, out of Itchenor and then eventually on his own boats in Chichester Harbour and beyond.

His teaching career started at the newly built Oak Park School in 1957 before moving to the Teacher Training College in Milton, Portsmouth. Alan was involved in Havant Round Table for many years, getting up to pranks, such as raft racing, all in aid of charity.

Once retired he spent time painting, sailing around the Solent, Channel Islands and France and flying around the world to visit relatives and friends. Alan got immense pleasure from encouraging other artists, as a visiting speaker being invited back year after year to many local art groups across Hampshire and West Sussex. He exhibited with Emsworth Art Group and Emsworth Arts Trail and his work can be found in many local homes and Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery.

Amanda Knight (daughter)

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Special Feature

My Kilimanjaro Challenge

Words and photos by Piper Lawrenson, Emsworth resident and student

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro was one of the most demanding and rewarding experiences of my life. Standing at 5,895 metres, it is the highest point in Africa, and reaching the summit felt both unbelievable and unforgettable.

The journey began long before I set foot on the mountain. Months of preparation went into training, packing, and fundraising. I knew the climb would be a challenge, but I did not realise just how much it would test not only my body, but also my patience, my mindset, and my sense of purpose.

Each day of the trek brought something different. We moved through lush rainforest, into moorland, and eventually into the dry, icy terrain closer to the summit. The higher we climbed, the more the altitude began to affect us. Simple things like eating, sleeping, and walking became harder. But the surroundings were beautiful and there was a strong sense of connection within the group. That support made all the difference.

Summit night was the hardest part of all. We woke up at 10 in the evening and began walking at 11. The temperature had dropped well below freezing, and we walked slowly through the dark with only our head torches lighting the narrow path ahead. The air was thin and each breath felt heavy. The silence of the group was broken only by the crunch of boots on gravel and the quiet words of encouragement from our guides.

There were moments when I honestly did not know if I would make it. Every part of me was tired and my legs felt like they might give up. But step by step, we kept going. As the sky began to lighten, we reached Stella Point, and then finally Uhuru Peak. The sun was rising behind us, lighting the clouds below in soft pink and gold. It was one of the most emotional and surreal moments of my life.

What made it even more meaningful was the reason we were climbing. Together, our two groups raised over £71,000 for Dig Deep, a charity that supports clean water and sanitation projects in Bomet County, Kenya. Knowing that our efforts would help improve health and wellbeing for thousands of people gave every difficult moment a deeper purpose.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who supported this journey. The generosity and encouragement from friends, family, and even strangers was overwhelming. It reminded me that when people come together around a shared goal, amazing things can happen.

This experience taught me so much about resilience, teamwork, and the power of having a reason to keep going. Kilimanjaro was not just a physical challenge; it was a personal journey that showed me how far we can go when we believe in something bigger than ourselves. I will carry that lesson with me always.

“when people come together around a shared goal, amazing things can happen”

Emsworth Residents Forum

Letter from the Chair

Words by Dwynwen Stepien,
Chair of the Emsworth Residents Forum

Local Democracy - Seize the moment

Hopefully you will be aware that there will be a major shake-up in local government (see Front Page and P5). The changes will mean that we will have a Mayor for all of Hampshire (and one for Sussex) and that our existing local councils, Havant and Chichester, will become part of new large Unitary authorities.

In September, Steve Jorden, the Chief Executive Officer of Havant Borough Council, held a small stakeholder consultation to inform us about the proposals for local government reorganisation. It was clear that the CEO felt that there was an opportunity to improve efficiencies with economies of scale and that improvements in service delivery were possible. The role of the proposed new unitary authority comprising Portsmouth, Havant, Gosport and Fareham (possibly named South East Hampshire) will be massive, including social care, schools, special educational needs, transport etc.

I really hope that bringing these services together as part of a unitary authority is of benefit and wish the new authority well in this endeavour. Of course it will take time and a significant amount of resources. But what about our voice? Given the mammoth task ahead for the 'South East Hampshire' authority which will represent over 500,000 people, it is impossible to see how our very local needs can be listened to and acted upon. That is why we must move forward now to have our own Town Council. Unless we push hard we will not get another opportunity to have our say.

Compass Photography

...the 'South East Hampshire' authority will represent over 500,000 people so it is impossible to see how our very local needs can be listened to and acted upon.

However, the Havant CEO is clear that, in his view, parish and town councils are not the way forward. The government papers suggest that something more akin to area or neighbourhood committees would be better. Why? A few examples of good practice are offered. But there are more than 10,000 parish/town councils in England, many of which have been in place since 1895. They are widely regarded as a good way to foster local democracy – close to local residents and decision making. How would an area committee, covering about half of Havant (around 60,000 residents), with no resources and little decision making, help Emsworth residents?

I cannot see how a talking shop will make improvements to our play parks, where we walk our dogs, where we shop and all our local green spaces.

So let's seize the moment and push for a Town Council for Emsworth. (see P3 for more on Town Councils)

Emsworth Residents Forum

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Emsworth Community Garden

We have come to the end of a very successful summer season at Emsworth Community Garden. Havant Borough Council visited in September and were very impressed with all our work. They said we were minus 1 star when we started back in 2023 and we are now 5 star which is very encouraging.

The U3A garden group visited us in early August. The weather was sunny with showers, but it didn't dampen their spirits. They loved it and want to visit again. It must have been the tea and cakes they enjoyed under the pergola!

Despite the hot and dry summer, and thanks to almost daily watering by our volunteers, produce from the garden won 6 prizes at Emsworth Show on Bank Holiday Monday: first prize for runner beans and sweetcorn; second prize for chilli peppers and cherry tomatoes; and third prize for white potatoes and rhubarb. A total of £14 in prize money and a further £21.20 in donations for vegetables grown in the garden and offered at the show was raised. Other surplus vegetables have been donated to the Beacon Food Bank at the Meridian Centre.

We have now started planting for the winter season in the garden and our polytunnel.

Why not come along and grow your own vegetables or just help with work in the garden? There is always plenty to do.

If you would like to join us please contact Kathy Parker on WhatsApp (07415 378564) or just pop along on Wednesday afternoon or Saturday morning.

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By Suzy Gardiner, Sports Correspondent
Email: sport.theems@gmail.com

Emsworth Bowling Club

The club has continued to thrive with new members enrolling.

The club finals of the internal competitions took place over the weekend of 16 and 17 August. Due to the hot weather some matches were re-arranged but all were completed and enjoyed by all, with some matches going down to the last bowl.

Many thanks must go to the volunteers who perform a variety of jobs to keep the club running smoothly, and particularly to the green staff who have kept the green in superb condition in spite of the dry weather.

www.emsworthbowlingclub.com

HeliPad Model Club

Formed in 1996, we are a relatively small radio-controlled helicopter club based in Portchester. We build and fly most types of radio-controlled helicopters. General sport flying and scale machines are the main interests, though we have a developing group of aerobatic flyers. We fly mainly larger electric helicopters now, though a few members run internal combustion engines and gas turbines in their models.

Our primary aim is to promote and encourage the safe flying of model helicopters. Membership of the British Model Flying Association (BMFA) is compulsory for all members, as the club is fully affiliated to the organisation for third-party insurance provision. All skill levels are catered for from beginners to advanced aerobatics, and club-approved instructors are usually on hand to provide training and assistance. For those wishing to advance their flying skills we have club examiners for the BMFA Power Achievement Scheme. We are also happy to support local events, such as village fetes and charity fund-raisers, with a static display of models.

The flying field is located in Monument Lane, off Portsdown Hill Road, and a stone's throw from Fort Nelson. We can fly 365 days a year from dawn to dusk, realistically only restricted by adverse weather. Our regular club meet is on a Sunday morning. There is usually someone on site by 9.30 am if the weather is playing ball. We host an annual open scale helicopter fly-in, usually in mid-July, which is advertised on the BMFA events calendar. Spectators are welcome at this event and also at the Sunday club meets.

For more information, or to arrange a visit, please contact the Club Secretary at helipad.secretary@gmail.com or look at our website: https://helipadmc.bmfa.club/

Seacourt and Pickle mania

The new sporting season starts at Seacourt with many tournaments, in all sports, in the calendar. Lawn Tennis, Padel, Squash and Pickleball are all in full swing at Seacourt. Real Tennis starts the season with the annual Peter Dawes Parent & Child Tournament. This is fun, but as you can imagine very competitive. We then have the return of top National League Real Tennis. Tom Weaver and Rich Smith are competing for Seacourt against high level Real Tennis players from around the country. Seacourt will be hosting some of their matches during the coming season and we are looking forward to watching some fantastic tennis. We welcome anyone who would like to come along and watch.

Seacourt hosted its very first Fun Doubles Pickleball Tournament and it was nothing short of spectacular. By 10 am, 32 enthusiastic players ranging from energetic juniors to seasoned players gathered in the sports hall, eager to serve, rally, and compete. Among them were Seacourt Juniors, Poppy and Ryan, bravely stepping up to challenge the adults. The afternoon unfolded as a lively whirlwind of action. Matches were fast-paced and the semi-finals could not have been tighter. In one thrilling clash, Linda and Nathan edged past Ross and Sarah, while Darren and Adrian gained a competitive edge over Ryan and Simon. And then came the final: a high-stakes, high-energy showdown between Linda & Nathan and Darren & Adrian. Linda was nothing short of remarkable. Her precision, speed, and teamwork lit the court up throughout the match. Yet, Darren and Adrian matched her intensity every step of the way to finally clinch the championship in an electrifying finish. However the fun didn't stop at the last point. Shortly after the final match a mouth-watering BBQ followed, bringing players and supporters together in celebration, mingling, retelling epic rallies and toasting to the day's success.

This tournament was more than just thrilling Pickleball action; it was a testament to the vibrant, inclusive, and thriving Seacourt community. 'Pickle mania' has truly landed, and how gratifying it was to watch the club come alive with energy, spirit, and connection. Here's hoping the Fun Doubles Pickleball Tournament becomes a new Seacourt tradition, full of friendly competition, new friendships, and courtside cheer.

For full details of all our events at Seacourt 02392 466122. https://seacourt.com/ Seacourt Tennis Club, 20 Victoria Avenue, Hayling Island PO11 9AJ.

Emsworth Town Football Club

Pre-season round up and mini report from the first game of the season, with thanks to Taylor-James Greer.

The Oystermen rounded off their pre-season campaign with a 3-1 win over Wittering United at Bracklesham Barn, thanks to goals from Dale Marsh, Braden Collins and Charlie Williams. Emsworth Town beat Bosham, Chichester City B, Whiteley Wanderers u23s, United Services Portsmouth Reserves and Wittering, with the only defeat being a 5-1 battering against AFC Fishbourne.

Emsworth kicked-off their WSFL Division One South with a 3-3 draw against Hunston Community Club, after coming back from 3-0 down in the first half. Despite Marsh's header hitting the crossbar, strikes from Alex Brandon, Toby Watkins and Dan Watson gave Hunston a three goal advantage inside 34 minutes. However, a brace from Williams and a tap-in from Chase Driscoll saw the Oystermen make it level with ten minutes to go. Hunston had a free-kick late on but that was comfortably kept out by seventeen year old Andile Ndlovu before Collins, who bagged a hat-trick in the Hampshire Saturday Vase final in May, was denied by the post late in added time.

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